

Analysis of Unicorn Startups

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1 Introduction

- **What is a Unicorn Startup?**

In business, a unicorn is a startup company valued at over US\$1 billion which is privately owned and not listed on a share market.

2 Setup

2.1 Import Packages

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
from matplotlib.ticker import FuncFormatter
import seaborn as sns
import re
```

2.2 Theming

```
sns.set_theme(palette='husl')
```

3 Data Preparation

3.1 Load Data

```
pd.set_option('display.max_columns', 50, 'display.width', 200)
df = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/Unicorns_Completed (2024).csv')
df_wiki = pd.read_csv('input/raw_data/list-of-unicorn-startups_20250619 (wikipedia).csv')
```

3.2 Data Cleaning

```
def convert_years_months(s):
    m = re.match(r'(\d+)y?\s?(\d+)m?o?', s)
    return f'{m[1]}y{m[2]}m' if m else s

df['Years to Unicorn'] = df['Years to Unicorn'].apply(convert_years_months)

def correct_industry_labels(s):
    if s == 'Health':
        return 'Healthcare & Life Sciences'
    if s == 'West Palm Beach':
        return 'Enterprise Tech'
    return s

df['Industry'] = df['Industry'].apply(correct_industry_labels)

def correct_company_names(s):
    if s == 'Scale':
        return 'Scale AI'
    return s

df['Company'] = df['Company'].apply(correct_company_names)
```

3.3 Prepare Data

3.3.1 Column Types

```
df['Unicorn Date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['Unicorn Date'])
```

```

df['Valuation ($B)'] = pd.to_numeric(df['Valuation ($B)'])
df['Unicorn Year'] = df['Unicorn Date'].dt.year
df['Funding ($B)'] = df['Total Equity Funding ($)'] / 1e9
df['Funding ($M)'] = df['Total Equity Funding ($)'] / 1e6
df['Investors'] = df['Select Investors'].str.split(', ')

```

3.3.2 Merge datasets (Latest Valuations and Founders)

```

df_wiki.rename(columns={'Valuation (US$ billions)': 'Latest Valuation ($B)'}, inplace=True)
df_wiki = df_wiki.drop_duplicates('Company')
df_wiki['Company'] = df_wiki['Company'].str.strip()
df_wiki['Founder(s)'] = df_wiki['Founder(s)'].str.replace(' and ', ', ')
df_wiki['Founder(s)'] = df_wiki['Founder(s)'].str.split(',')
df = df.merge(df_wiki[['Company', 'Latest Valuation ($B)', 'Founder(s)']], on='Company',
               how='left')
df['Latest Valuation ($B)'] = pd.to_numeric(df['Latest Valuation
               ($B)'].fillna(value=df['Valuation ($B)']))

```

3.4 Preview

```

print(df.info())
print(df.describe())
print(df.head())

```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>		
RangeIndex: 1244 entries, 0 to 1243		
Data columns (total 16 columns):		
# Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
---	-----	----
0 Company	1244 non-null	object
1 Valuation (\$B)	1244 non-null	float64
2 Total Equity Funding (\$)	1244 non-null	int64
3 Unicorn Date	1244 non-null	datetime64[ns]
4 Date Founded	1244 non-null	int64
5 Years to Unicorn	1244 non-null	object
6 Industry	1244 non-null	object
7 Country	1244 non-null	object
8 City	1244 non-null	object
9 Select Investors	1244 non-null	object
10 Unicorn Year	1244 non-null	int32
11 Funding (\$B)	1244 non-null	float64
12 Funding (\$M)	1244 non-null	float64
13 Investors	1244 non-null	object
14 Latest Valuation (\$B)	1244 non-null	float64
15 Founder(s)	130 non-null	object

```
dtypes: datetime64[ns](1), float64(4), int32(1), int64(2), object(8)
```

```
memory usage: 150.8+ KB
```

```
None
```

	Valuation (\$B)	Total Equity Funding (\$)	Unicorn Date	Date Founded	For
count	1244.000000	1.244000e+03		1244	1244.000000
mean	3.626487	5.985096e+08	2021-02-10 22:05:24.115755776	2013.37	
min	1.000000	0.000000e+00	2007-07-02 00:00:00	1919.000000	
25%	1.100000	2.170000e+08	2020-08-13 12:00:00	2011.000000	
50%	1.550000	3.525000e+08	2021-07-21 00:00:00	2014.000000	
75%	3.000000	6.090000e+08	2022-02-24 00:00:00	2017.000000	
max	350.000000	1.900000e+10	2024-12-24 00:00:00	2024.000000	
std	15.016365	1.222045e+09		NaN	5.51

	Company	Valuation (\$B)	Total Equity Funding (\$)	Unicorn Date	Date Founded	Years
0	SpaceX	350.0	90000000000	2012-12-01	2002	
1	ByteDance	300.0	80000000000	2017-04-07	2011	
2	OpenAI	157.0	180000000000	2019-07-22	2015	
3	Ant Group	150.0	190000000000	2017-01-01	2014	
4	Stripe	70.0	90000000000	2014-01-23	2009	

	Select Investors	Unicorn Year	Funding (\$B)	Funding
0	Opus Capital, RRE Ventures, Relay Ventures	2012	9.0	
1	Breyer Capital, Parkway VC, TIME Ventures	2017	8.0	
2	Dynamo VC, Susa Ventures, Founders Fund	2019	18.0	
3	Alibaba Group, CPP Investments, The Carlyle Group	2017	19.0	
4	Sequoia Capital China, ZhenFund, K2 Ventures	2014	9.0	

	Founder(s)
0	[Elon Musk]
1	[Zhang Yiming, Liang Rubo]
2	[Sam Altman, Greg Brockman, Ilya Sutskever]
3	NaN
4	[Patrick, John Collison]

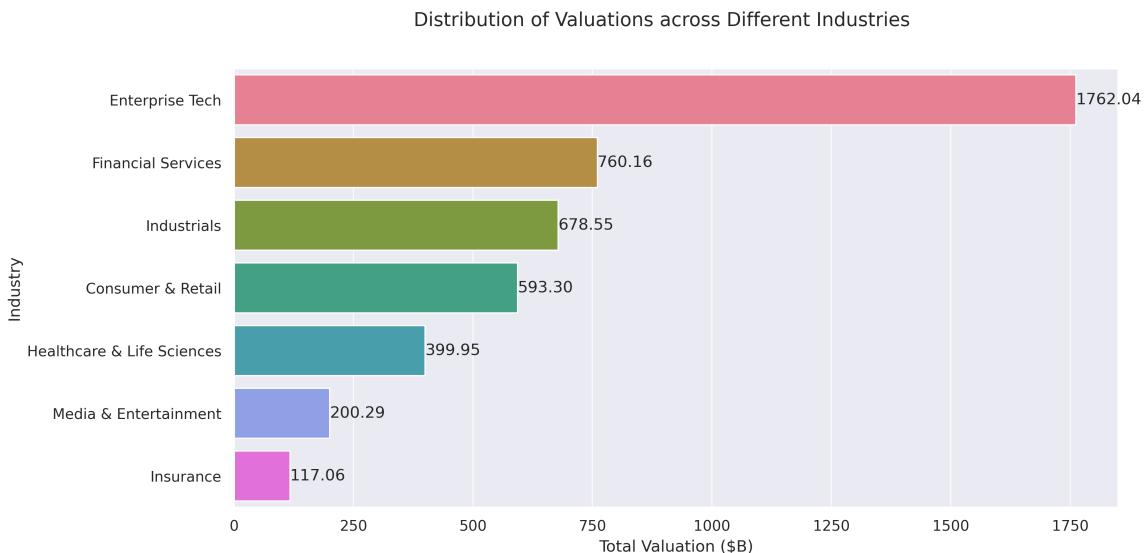
4 Descriptive Analysis

4.1 Distribution

4.1.1 Valuations

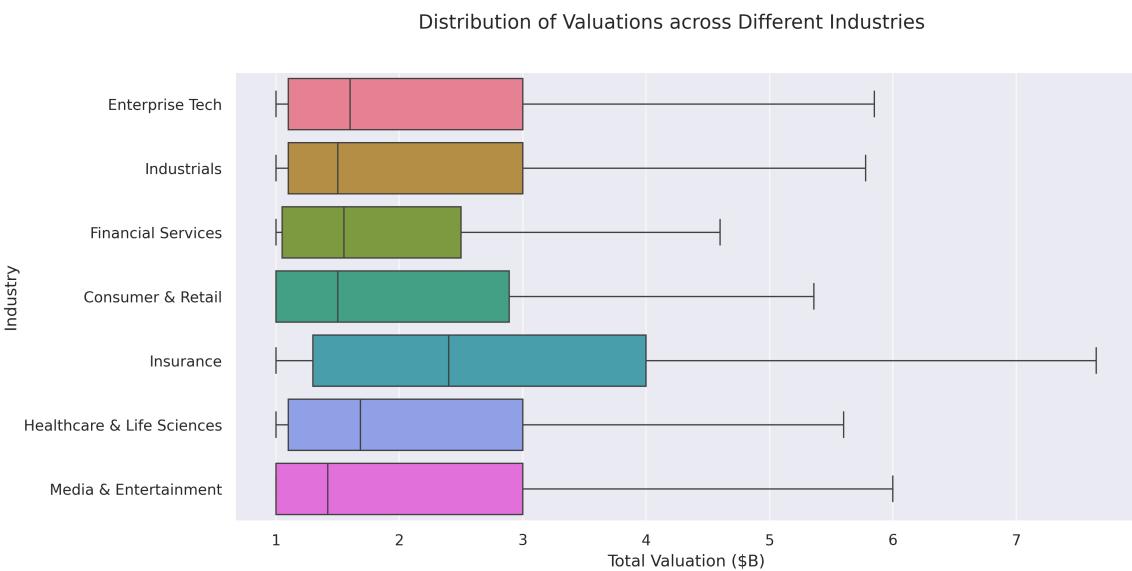
Distribution of Valuations across Different Industries

```
industry_valuation_df = df.groupby('Industry')['Valuation  
→ ($B)'].sum().reset_index().sort_values('Valuation ($B)', ascending=False)  
industry_valuation_df
```



Mean Distribution of Valuations across Different Industries

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.boxplot(df, y='Industry', x='Valuation ($B)', hue='Industry', showfliers=False)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Valuations across Different Industries')
ax.set(xlabel='Total Valuation ($B)',
       ylabel='Industry')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()
```



```
industry_valuation_df = df.groupby('Industry')['Valuation
→   ($B)'].mean().reset_index().sort_values('Valuation ($B)', ascending=False)
industry_valuation_df
```

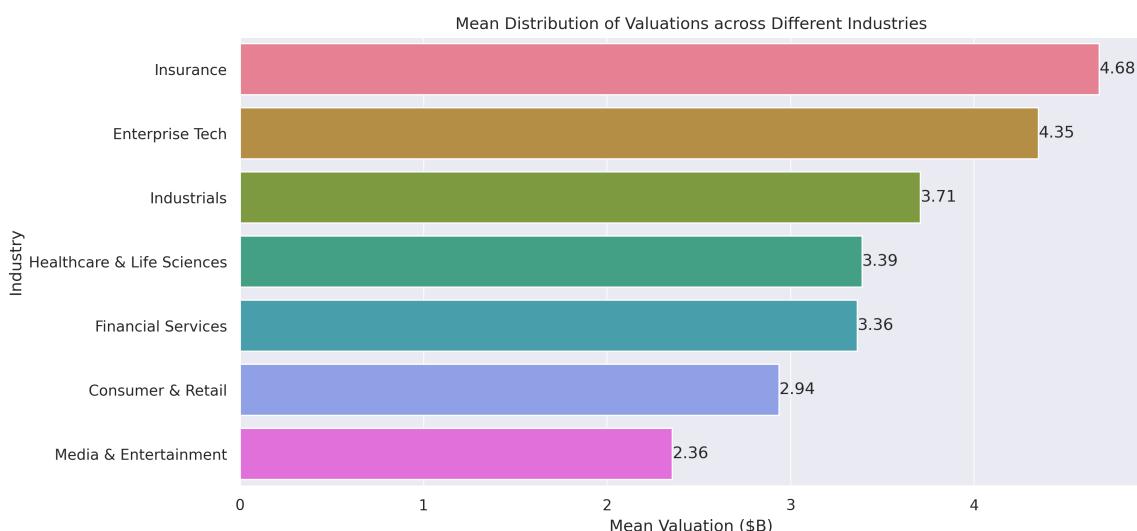
```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
```

```

ax = sns.barplot(industry_valuation_df,
                  y='Industry',
                  x='Valuation ($B)',
                  hue='Industry')

for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')
plt.title('Mean Distribution of Valuations across Different Industries')
plt.xlabel('Mean Valuation ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Industry')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)

```



Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries

```

country_valuation_df = df.groupby('Country')['Valuation
→   ($B)'].sum().reset_index().sort_values('Valuation ($B)', ascending=False).head(20)
country_valuation_df

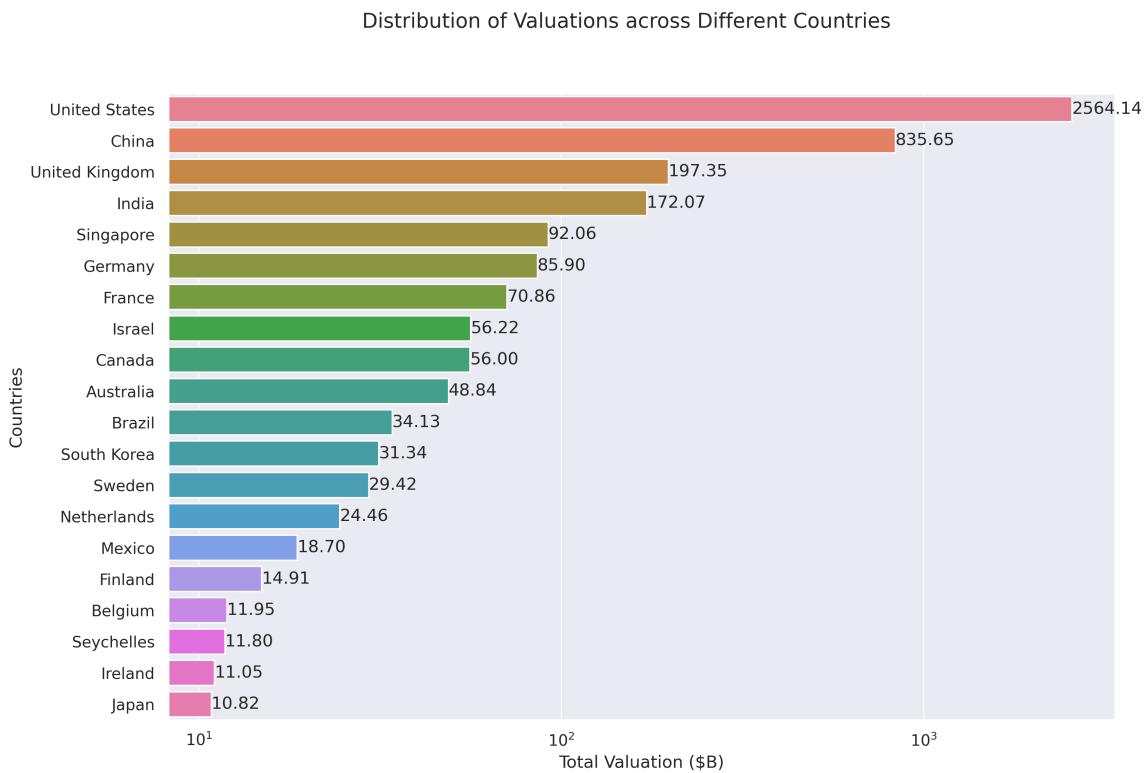
```

```

plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(country_valuation_df,
                  y='Country',
                  x='Valuation ($B)',
                  hue='Country')

for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries')
plt.xlabel('Total Valuation ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Countries')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
plt.xscale('log')
plt.show()

```



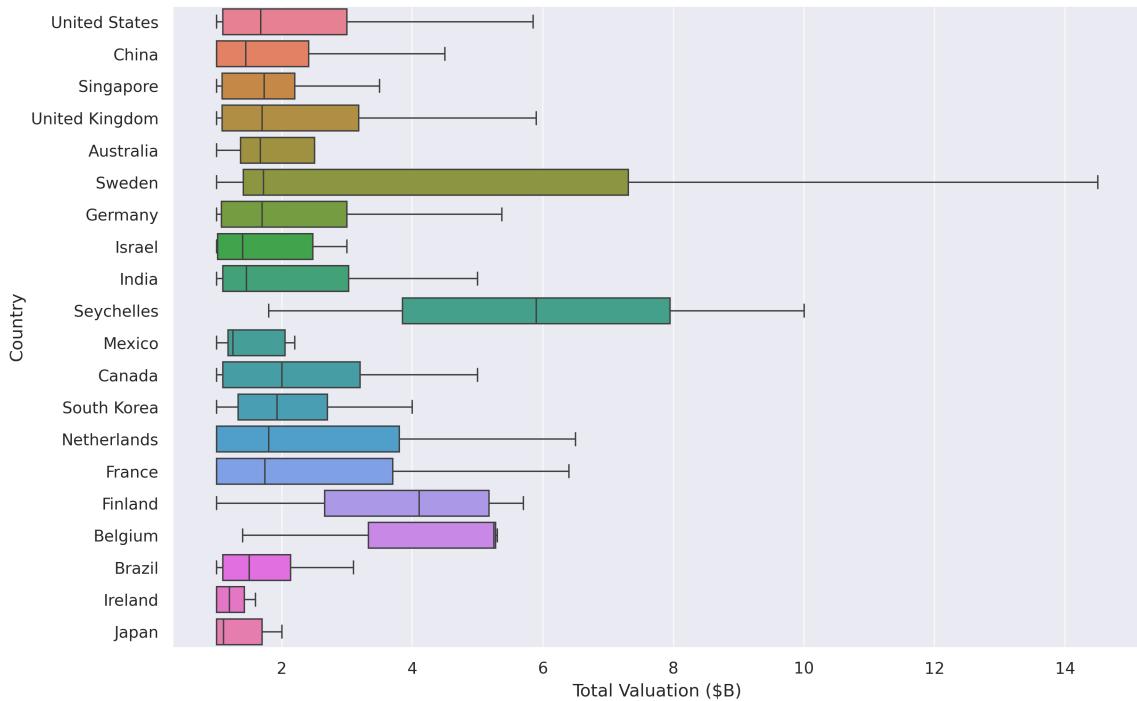
Mean Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries

```

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
sns.boxplot(df[df['Country'].isin(country_valuation_df['Country'])],
            y='Country',
            x='Valuation ($B)',
            hue='Country',
            showfliers=False)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries')
ax.set(xlabel='Total Valuation ($B)',
       ylabel='Country')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()

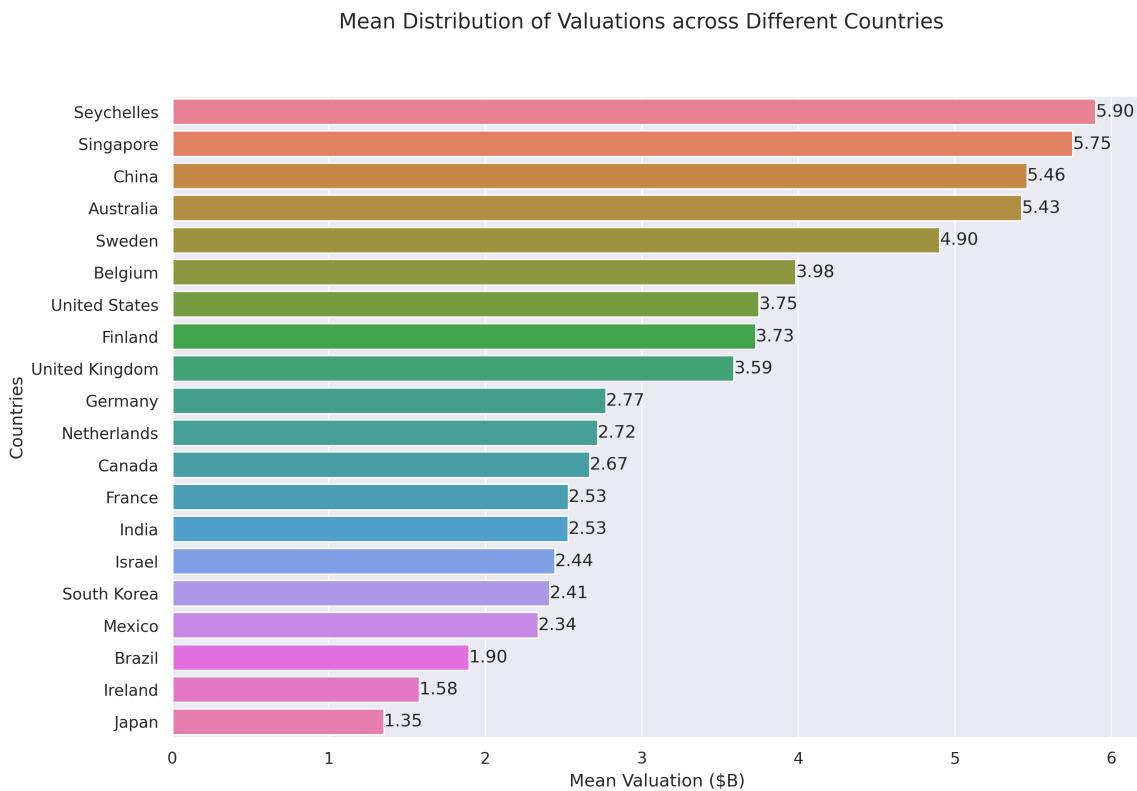
```

Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries



```
mean_country_valuation_df =
    df[df['Country'].isin(country_valuation_df['Country'])].groupby('Country')['Valuation
    ($B)'].mean().reset_index().sort_values('Valuation ($B)', ascending=False).head(20)
mean_country_valuation_df
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(mean_country_valuation_df,
                  y='Country',
                  x='Valuation ($B)',
                  hue='Country')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')
plt.suptitle('Mean Distribution of Valuations across Different Countries')
plt.xlabel('Mean Valuation ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Countries')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
plt.show()
```



Distribution of Valuations by Number of Companies

```

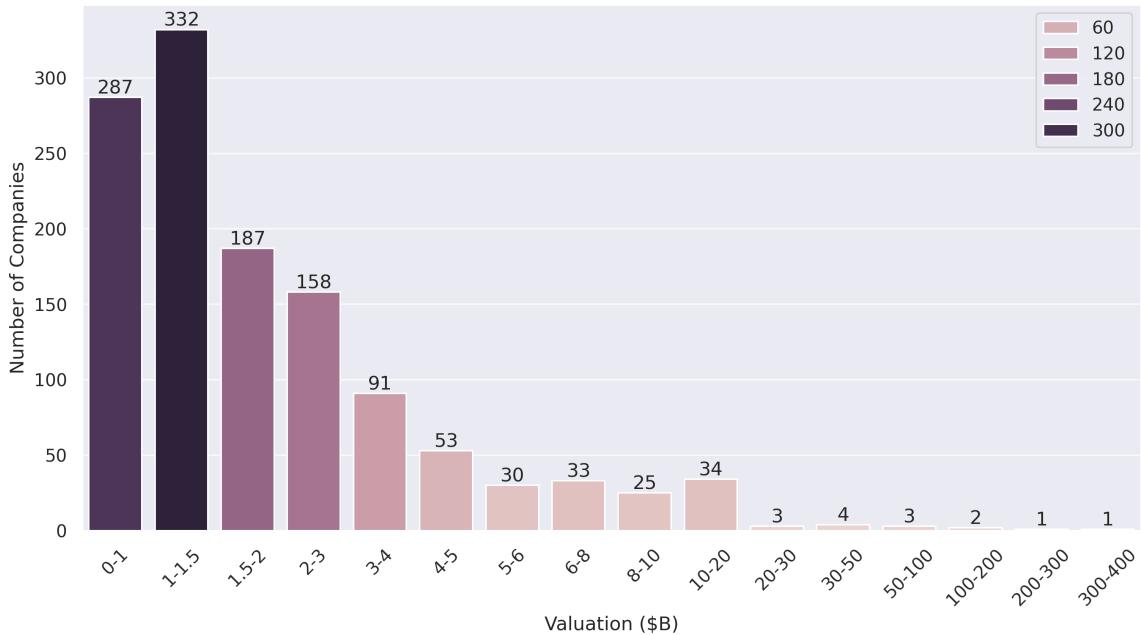
# Define the bins for valuation ranges
bins = [0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 200, 300, 400]
labels = [f'{a}-{b}' for a, b in zip(bins[:-1], bins[1:])]
cuts = pd.cut(df['Valuation ($B)'], bins=bins, labels=labels)

# Count the number of companies in each bin
valuation_distribution = cuts.value_counts().sort_index()

# Plot the Bar Chart
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(x=valuation_distribution.index,
                  y=valuation_distribution.values, hue=valuation_distribution.values)
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Valuations by Number of Companies')
plt.xlabel('Valuation ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Number of Companies')
plt.xticks(rotation=45)
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.75)
# plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()

```

Distribution of Valuations by Number of Companies

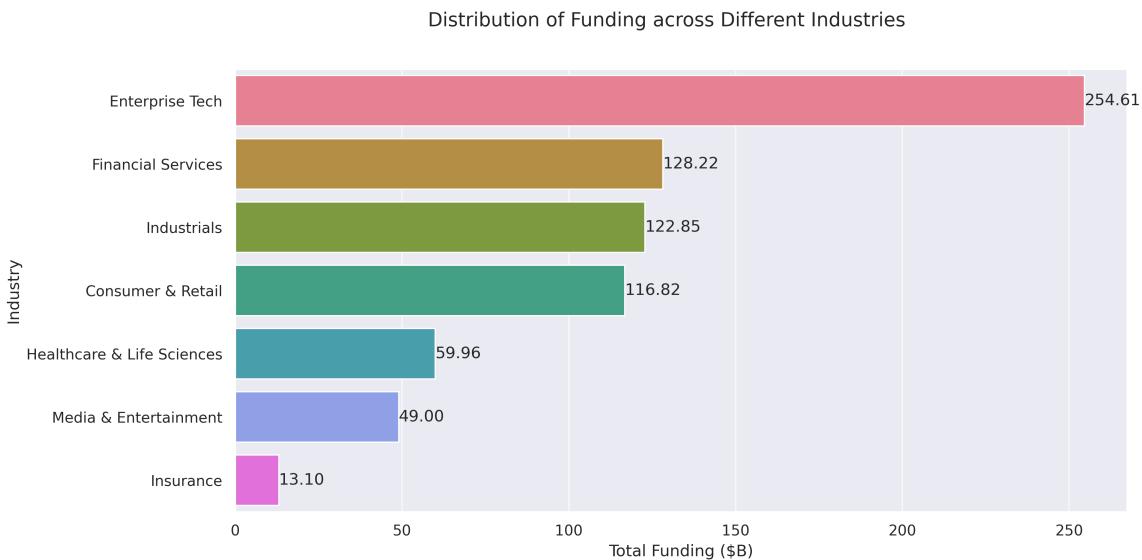


4.1.2 Funding

Distribution of Funding across Different Industries

```
industry_funding_df = df.groupby('Industry')['Funding
→   ($B)'].sum().reset_index().sort_values('Funding ($B)', ascending=False)
industry_funding_df
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(industry_funding_df,
                  y='Industry', x='Funding ($B)', hue='Industry')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding across Different Industries')
plt.xlabel('Total Funding ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Industry')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
```

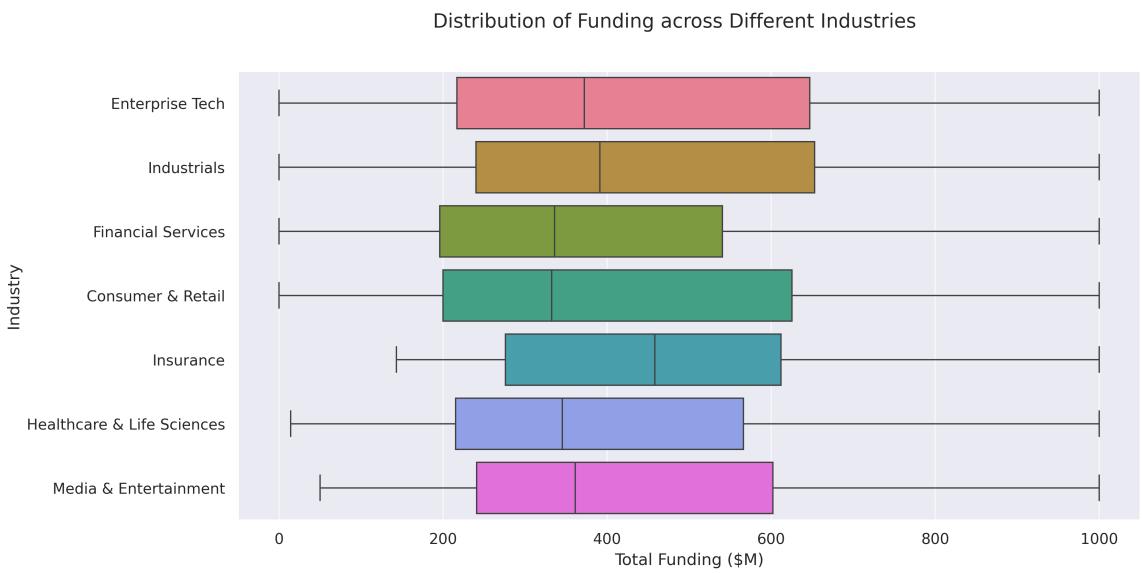


Mean Distribution of Funding across Different Industries

```

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.boxplot(df, y='Industry', x='Funding ($M)', hue='Industry', showfliers=False)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding across Different Industries')
ax.set(xlabel='Total Funding ($M)',
       ylabel='Industry')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()

```



```

industry_funding_df = df.groupby('Industry')['Funding
→ ($M)'].mean().reset_index().sort_values('Funding ($M)', ascending=False)
industry_funding_df

```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
```

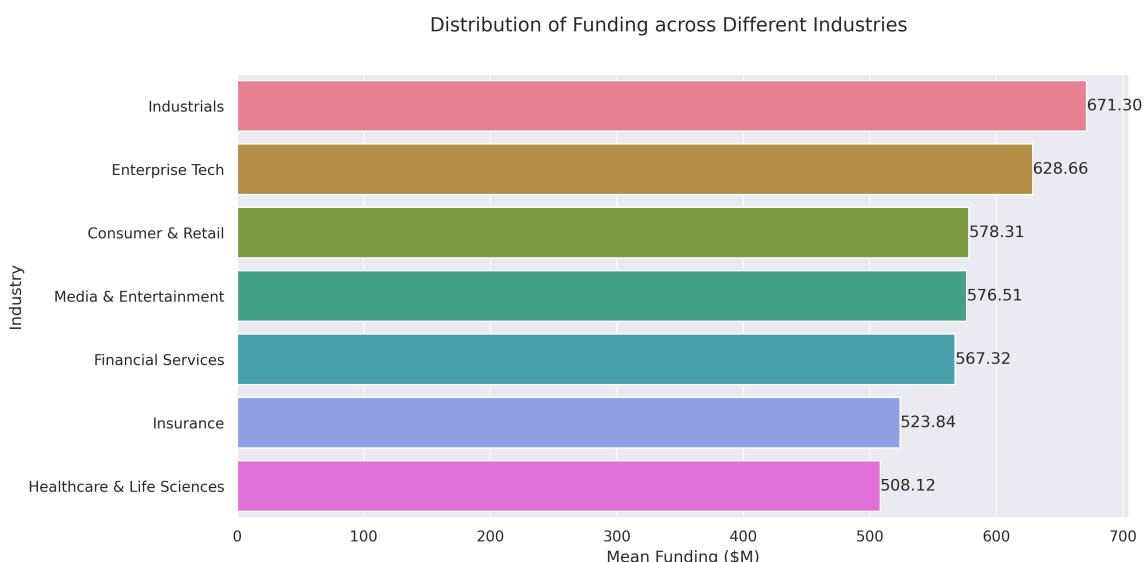
```

ax = sns.barplot(industry_funding_df,
                  y='Industry',
                  x='Funding ($M)',
                  hue='Industry')

for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')

plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding across Different Industries')
plt.xlabel('Mean Funding ($M)')
plt.ylabel('Industry')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
plt.show()

```



Distribution of Funding across Different Countries

```

country_funding_df = df.groupby('Country')['Funding
→   ($B)'].sum().reset_index().sort_values('Funding ($B)', ascending=False).head(20)
country_funding_df

```

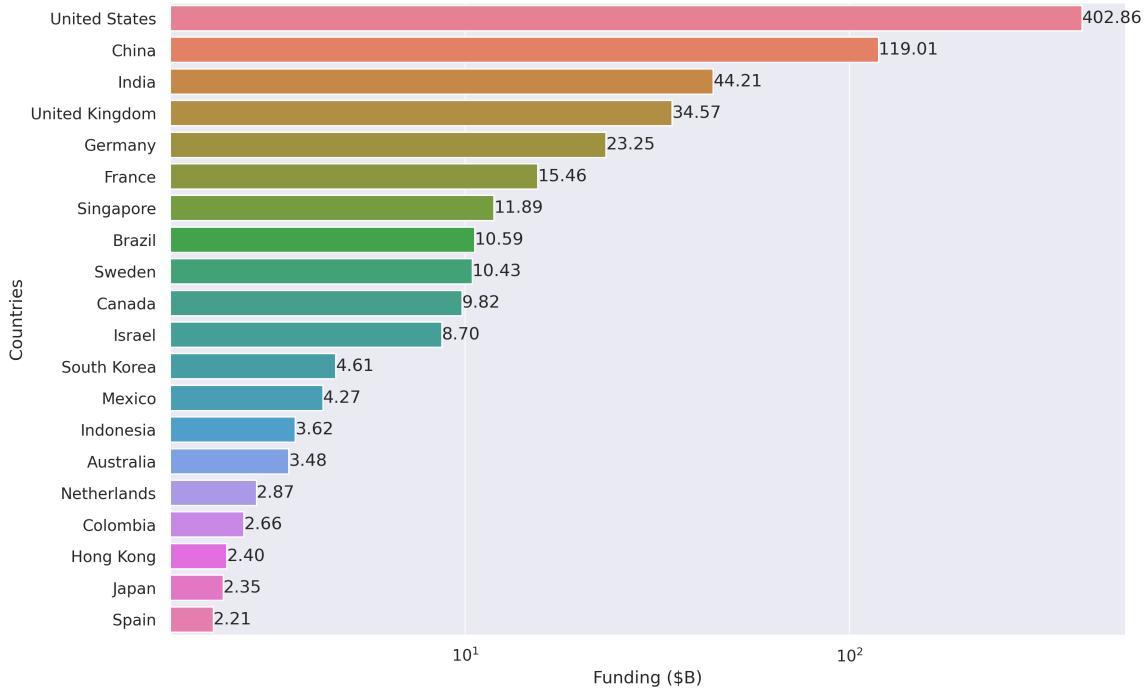
```

plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(country_funding_df, y='Country', x='Funding ($B)', hue='Country')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')

plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding across Different Countries')
plt.xlabel('Funding ($B)')
plt.ylabel('Countries')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
plt.xscale('log')
plt.show()

```

Distribution of Funding across Different Countries



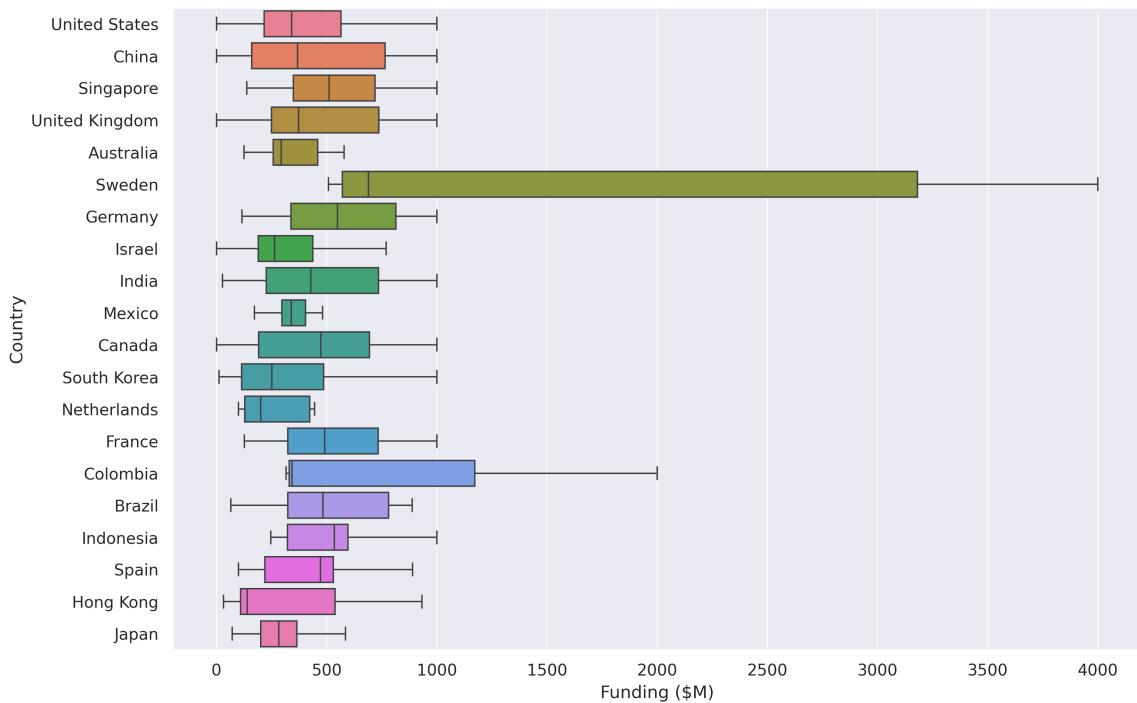
Mean Distribution of Funding across Different Countries

```

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12,8), dpi=300)
sns.boxplot(df[df['Country'].isin(country_funding_df['Country'])], y='Country', x='Funding
→ ($M)', hue='Country', showfliers=False)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding across Different Countries')
ax.set(xlabel='Funding ($M)',
       ylabel='Country')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()

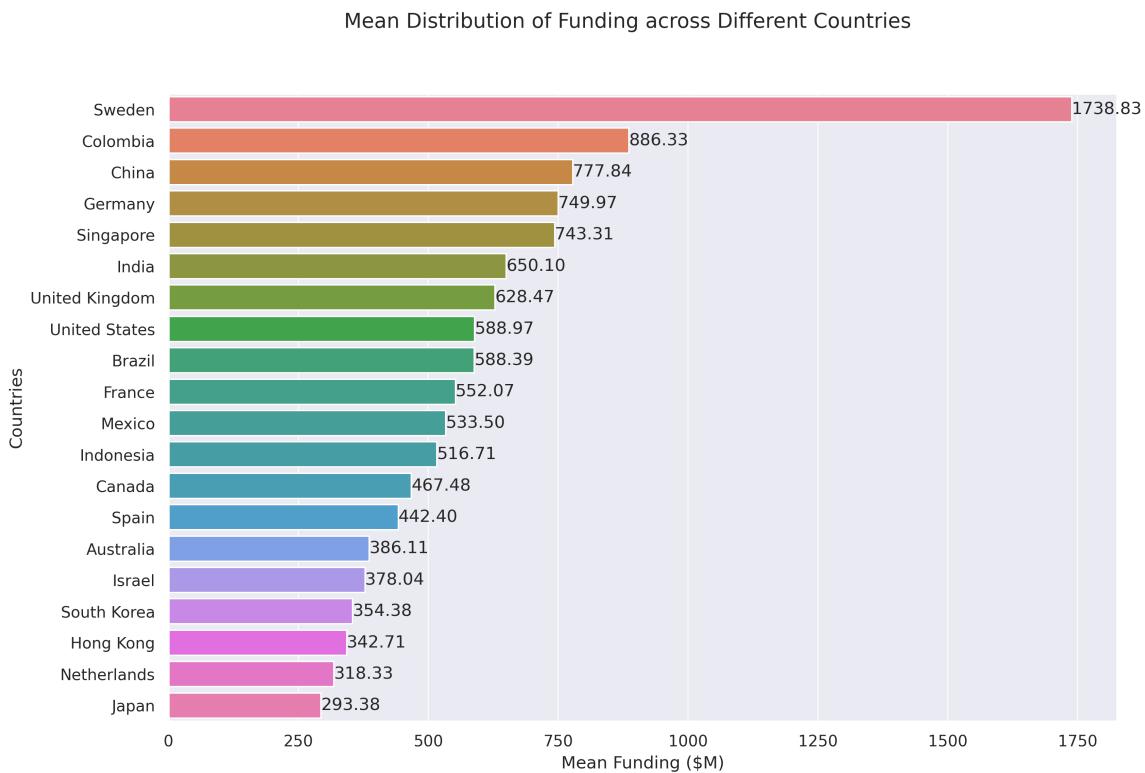
```

Distribution of Funding across Different Countries



```
mean_country_funding_df =
    df[df['Country'].isin(country_funding_df['Country'])].groupby('Country')['Funding
    ($M)'].mean().reset_index().sort_values('Funding ($M)', ascending=False).head(20)
mean_country_funding_df
```

```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(mean_country_funding_df,
                  y='Country',
                  x='Funding ($M)',
                  hue='Country')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.2f')
plt.suptitle('Mean Distribution of Funding across Different Countries')
plt.xlabel('Mean Funding ($M)')
plt.ylabel('Countries')
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)
plt.show()
```



Distribution of Funding by Number of Companies

```

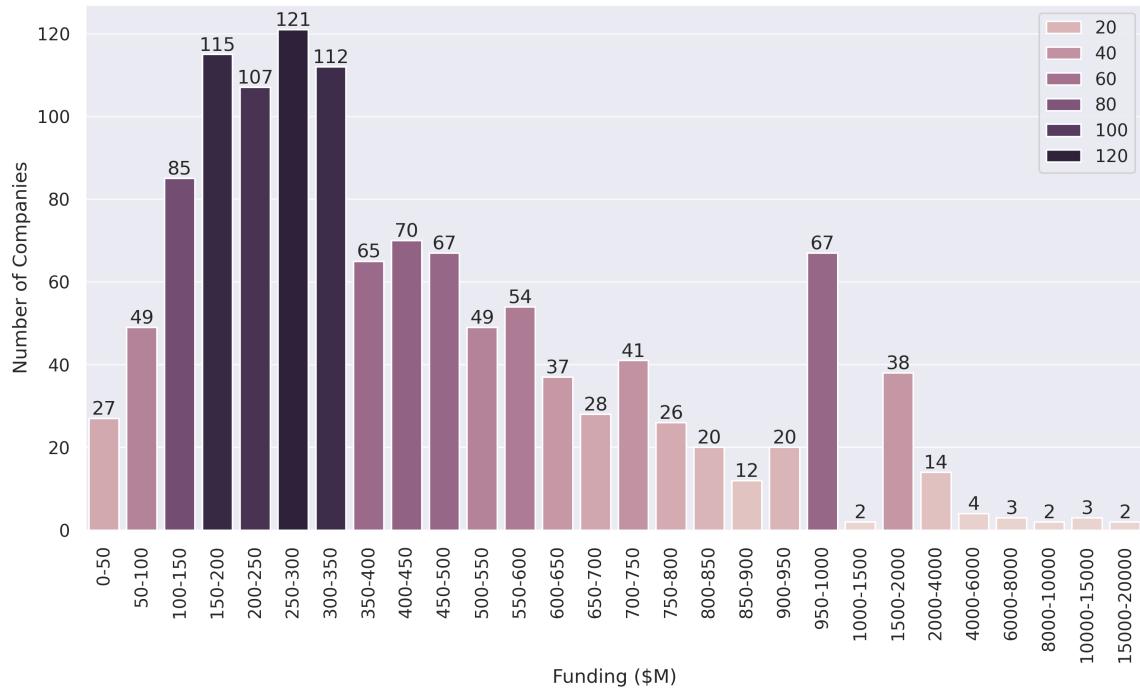
# Define the bins for funding ranges
# bins = [0, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20]
# labels = [f'{a}-{b}' for a, b in zip(bins[:-1], bins[1:])]
bins =
→ [0,50,100,150,200,250,300,350,400,450,500,550,600,650,700,750,800,850,900,950,1000,1500,2000,4000,6000]
labels = [f'{a}-{b}' for a, b in zip(bins[:-1], bins[1:])]
cuts = pd.cut(df['Funding ($M)'], bins=bins, labels=labels)

# Count the number of companies in each bin
funding_distribution = cuts.value_counts().sort_index()

# Plot the Bar Chart
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(x=funding_distribution.index,
                  y=funding_distribution.values, hue=funding_distribution.values)
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i)
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding by Number of Companies')
plt.xlabel('Funding ($M)')
plt.ylabel('Number of Companies')
plt.xticks(rotation=90)
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.75)
# plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()

```

Distribution of Funding by Number of Companies



5 Comparative Analysis

5.1 By Company

5.1.1 Top Companies by Valuation

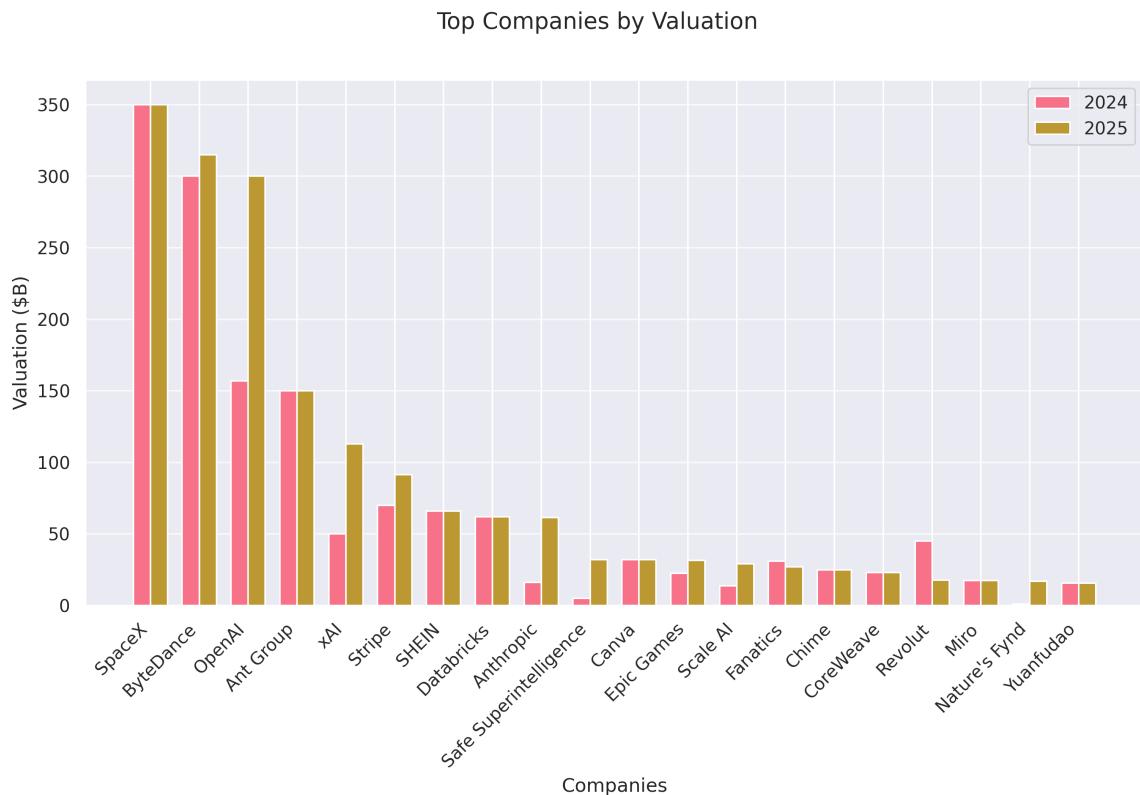
```
top_companies = df.sort_values(by='Latest Valuation ($B)', ascending=False).head(20)
top_companies

# Set the positions and width for the bars
N = len(top_companies)
ind = np.arange(N) # the x locations for the groups
width = 0.35 # the width of the bars

# Create the bars for valuation and funding
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
bars1 = ax.bar(ind, top_companies['Valuation ($B)'], width, label='2024')
bars2 = ax.bar(ind + width, top_companies['Latest Valuation ($B)'], width, label='2025')

# Add labels and title
ax.set(xlabel='Companies',
       ylabel='Valuation ($B)')
ax.set_xticks(ind+width/2, top_companies['Company'], rotation=45, ha='right')
ax.legend()
ax.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.75)
plt.suptitle('Top Companies by Valuation')
```

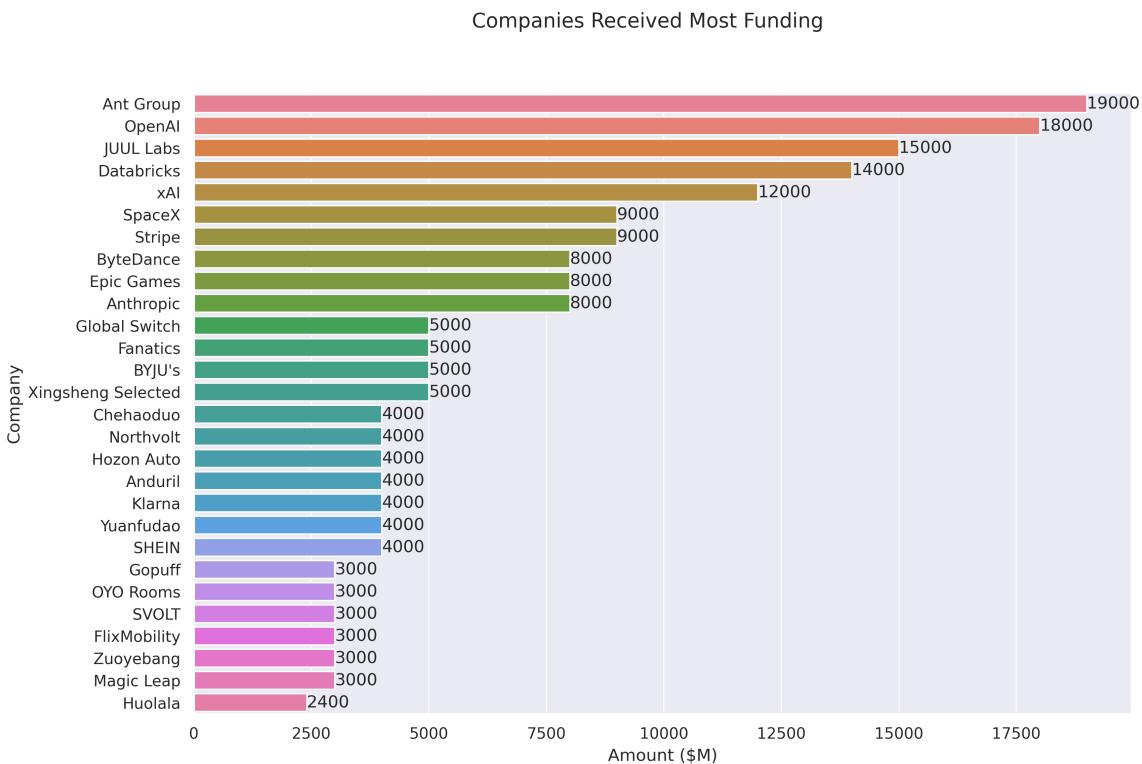
```
plt.show()
```



5.1.2 Companies Received Most Funding

```
top_companies = df[df['Funding ($M)']>2000].sort_values(by='Funding ($M)',  
→ ascending=False).head(30)  
top_companies
```

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)  
ax = sns.barplot(top_companies, y='Company', x='Funding ($M)', hue='Company')  
for i in ax.containers:  
    ax.bar_label(i)  
plt.suptitle('Companies Received Most Funding')  
plt.xlabel('Amount ($M)')  
plt.grid(axis='x', alpha=0.75)  
plt.show()
```



5.2 By Country

```
top_countries = df['Country'].value_counts().nlargest(8).index
top_countries
```

Index(['United States', 'China', 'India', 'United Kingdom', 'Germany', 'France', 'Israel', 'Australia'])

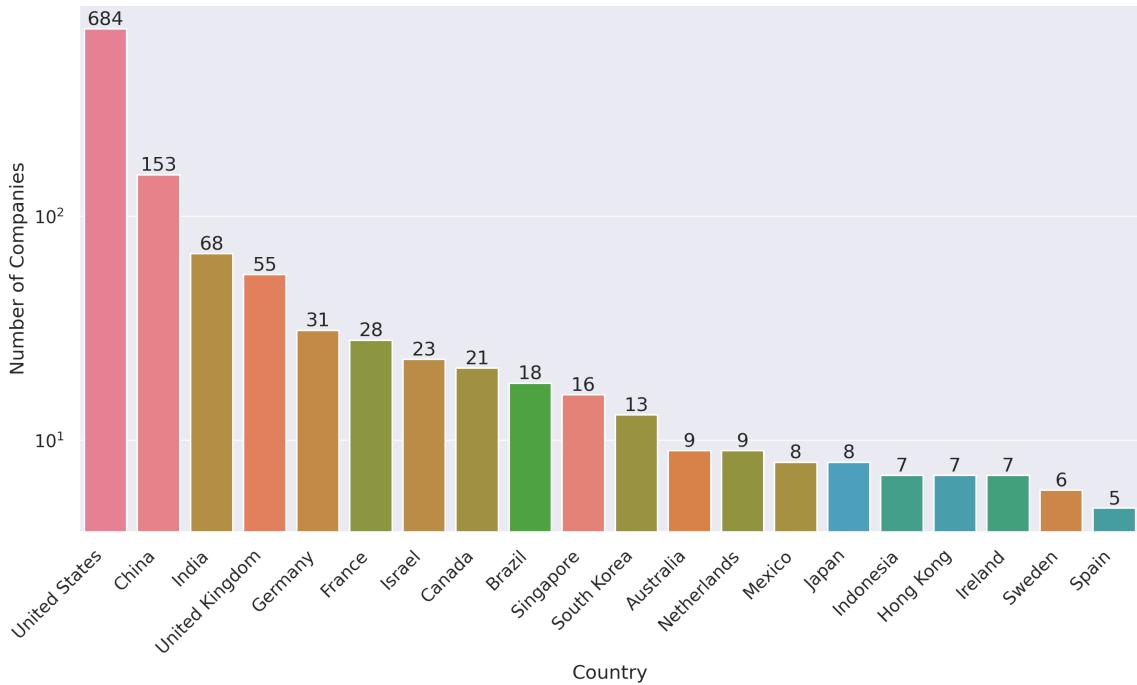
5.2.1 Top Countries by Number of Companies

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.countplot(x=df['Country'],
                    order=df['Country'].value_counts().nlargest(20).index,
                    hue=df['Country'])

for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i)

plt.suptitle('Top Countries by Number of Companies')
plt.ylabel('Number of Companies')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.75)
plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()
```

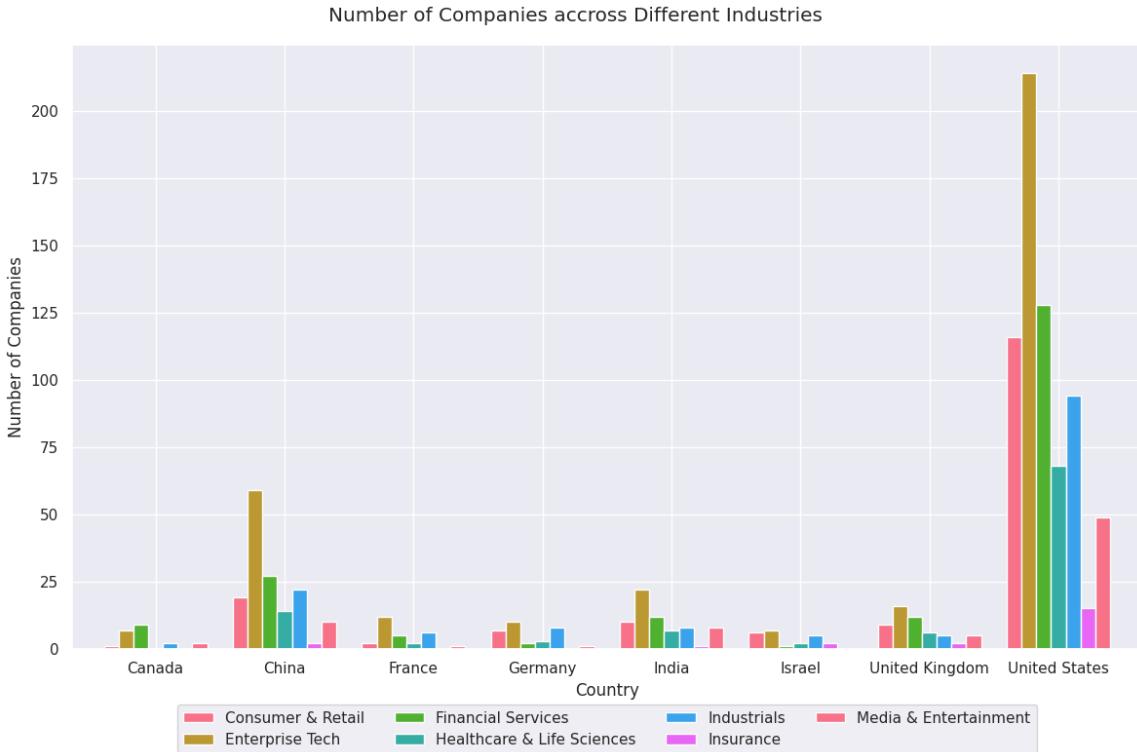
Top Countries by Number of Companies



5.2.2 Top Countries by Number of Companies across Different Industries

```
grouped_df = df[df['Country'].isin(top_countries)].groupby(['Country',
→ 'Industry']).size().unstack(fill_value=0)
grouped_df
```

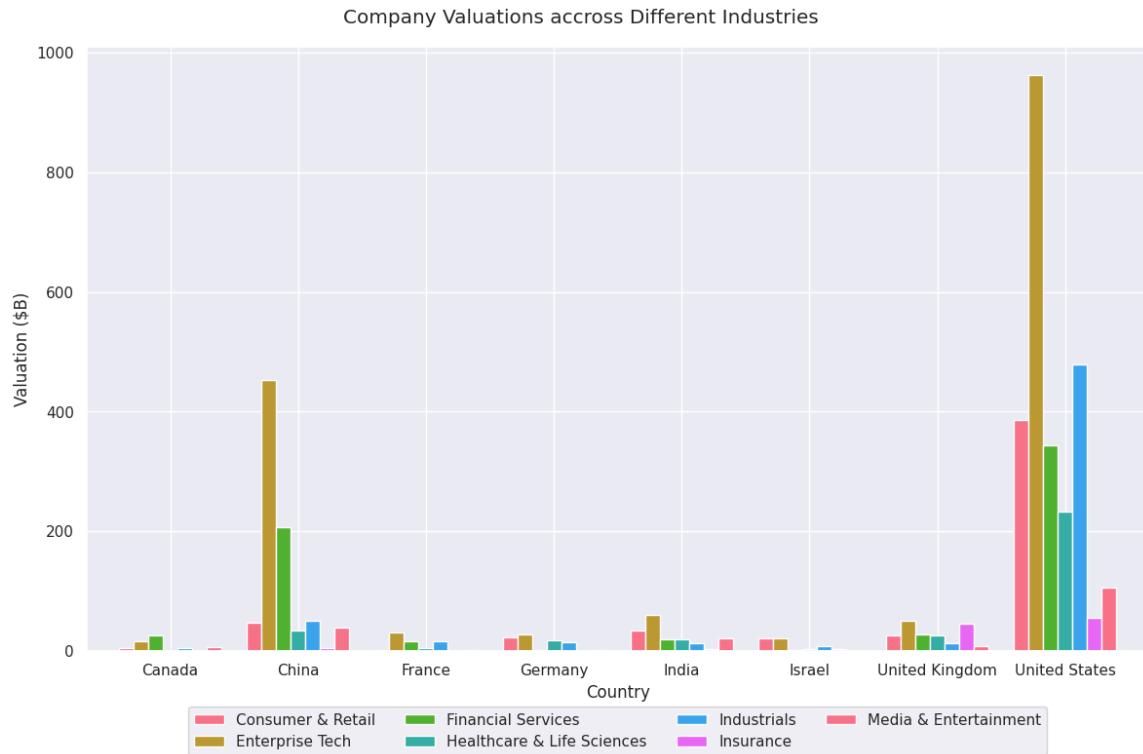
```
grouped_df.plot(kind='bar', figsize=(12, 8), width=0.8)
plt.suptitle('Number of Companies accross Different Industries')
plt.xlabel('Country')
plt.ylabel('Number of Companies')
plt.xticks(rotation=0) # Keep x-axis labels horizontal
plt.legend(ncol=4, loc="upper center", bbox_to_anchor=(0.5,-0.08))
plt.grid(True)
plt.tight_layout()
# plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()
```



5.2.3 Top Countries by Company Valuations across Different Industries

```
grouped_df = df[df['Country'].isin(top_countries)].groupby(['Country',
→ 'Industry'])['Valuation ($B)'].sum().unstack(fill_value=0)
grouped_df
```

```
grouped_df.plot(kind='bar', figsize=(12, 8), width=0.8)
plt.suptitle('Company Valuations accross Different Industries')
plt.xlabel('Country')
plt.ylabel('Valuation ($B)')
plt.xticks(rotation=0) # Keep x-axis labels horizontal
plt.legend(ncol=4, loc="upper center", bbox_to_anchor=(0.5,-0.08))
plt.grid(True)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



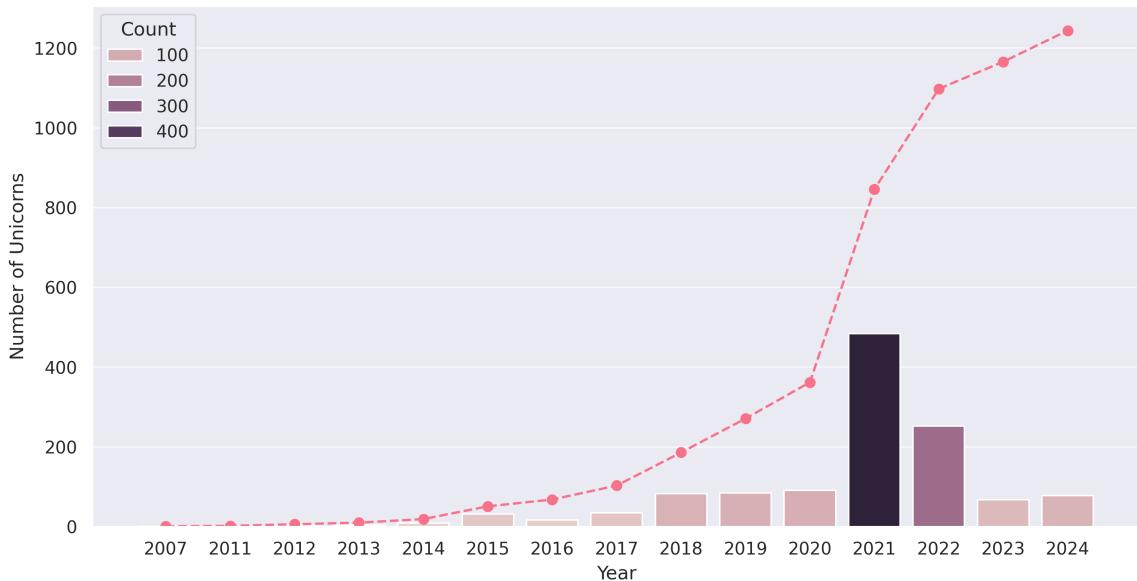
6 Time-Based Analysis

6.1 Unicorn Growth Over Time

```
_df = df.groupby('Unicorn Year').size().reset_index(name='Count')
_df['Accumulated Count'] = _df['Count'].cumsum()
_df
```

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.barplot(_df, x='Unicorn Year', y='Count', hue='Count')
plt.plot(_df['Accumulated Count'], marker='o', linestyle='dashed')
plt.suptitle('Unicorn Growth Over Time')
plt.xlabel('Year')
plt.ylabel('Number of Unicorns')
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.7)
plt.show()
```

Unicorn Growth Over Time



The surge of unicorns was reported as “[meteoric](#)” for 2021, with \$71 billion invested in 340 new companies, a banner year for startups and for the US venture capital industry; the unprecedented number of companies valued at more than \$1 billion during 2021 exceeded the sum total of the five previous years.

6.2 Time to Unicorn

```
# Function to convert "Years to Unicorn" into total months
def convert_years_to_months(years_str):
    if 'y' in years_str and 'm' in years_str:
        years, months = years_str.split('y')
        months = months.replace('m', '').strip()
        return int(years.strip()) * 12 + int(months)
    elif 'y' in years_str:
        years = years_str.replace('y', '').strip()
        return int(years) * 12
    elif 'm' in years_str:
        months = years_str.replace('mo', '').replace('m', '').strip()
        return int(months)
    else:
        return None

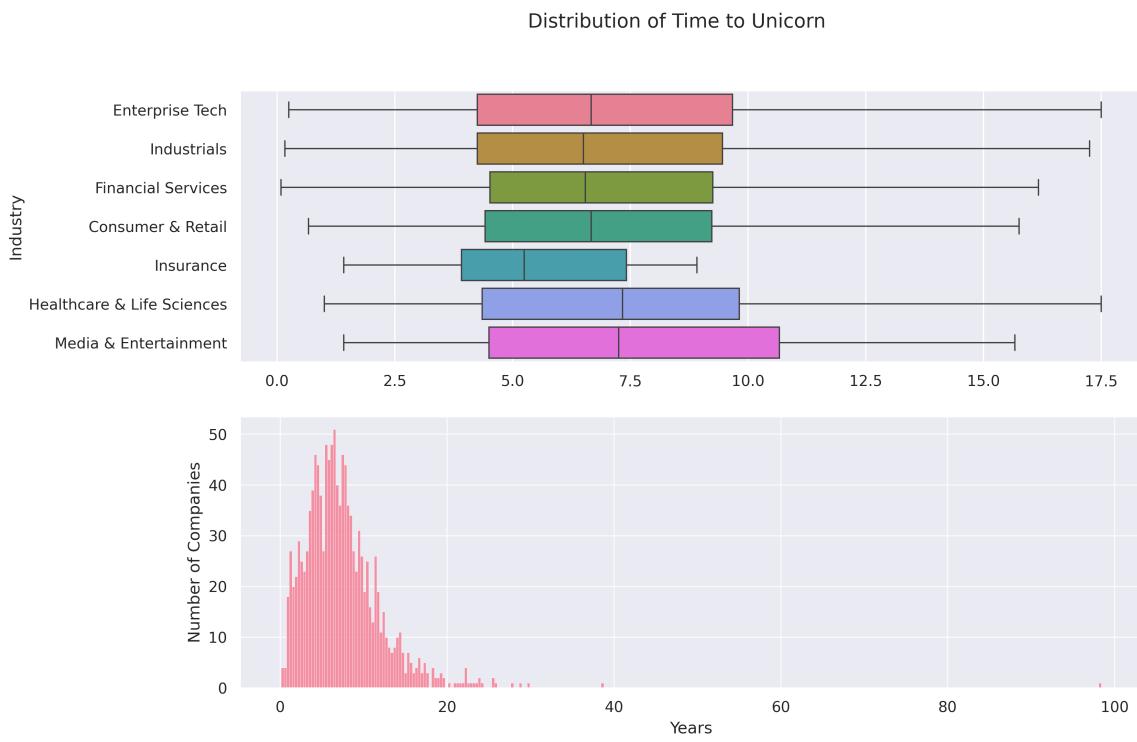
df['Years to Unicorn (Months)'] = df['Years to Unicorn'].apply(convert_years_to_months)
df['Years to Unicorn (Converted)'] = df['Years to Unicorn (Months)'] / 12
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300)
sns.boxplot(df, x='Years to Unicorn (Converted)', y='Industry', hue='Industry', ax=ax[0],
            showfliers=False)
ax[0].set(xlabel=None)
sns.histplot(df['Years to Unicorn (Converted)'].dropna(), bins=300, ax=ax[1])
```

```

ax[1].set(xlabel='Years', ylabel='Number of Companies')
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Time to Unicorn')
plt.grid(alpha=0.75)
plt.show()

```



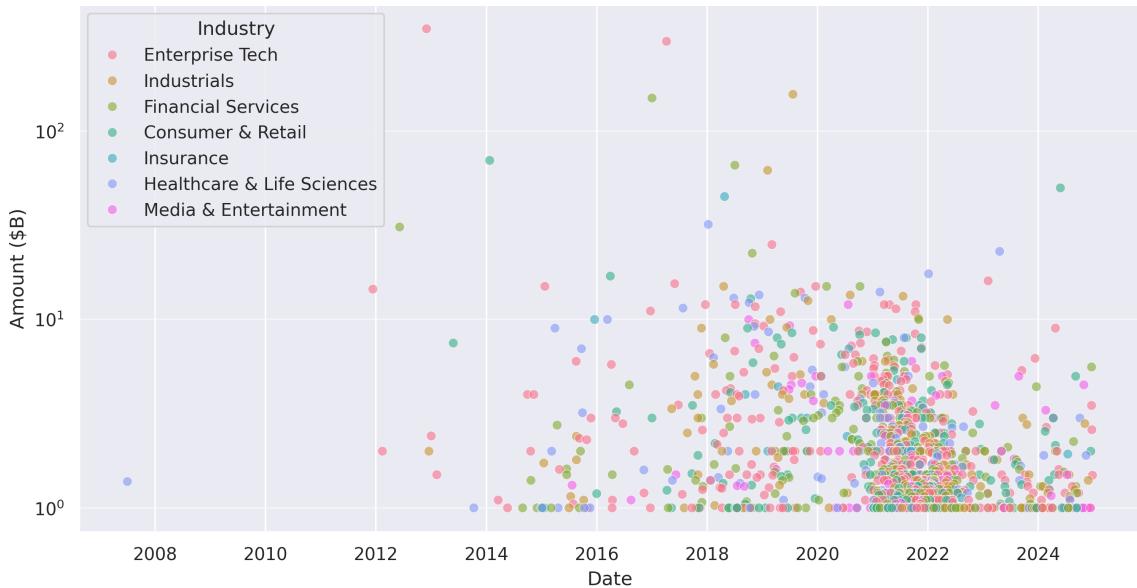
6.3 Distribution of Valuations Over Time

```

plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.scatterplot(df, x='Unicorn Date', y='Valuation ($B)', alpha=.6, hue='Industry')
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Valuations Over Time')
plt.xlabel('Date')
plt.ylabel('Amount ($B)')
# plt.xticks(df['Unicorn Year'].unique(), rotation=45)
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.5)
plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()

```

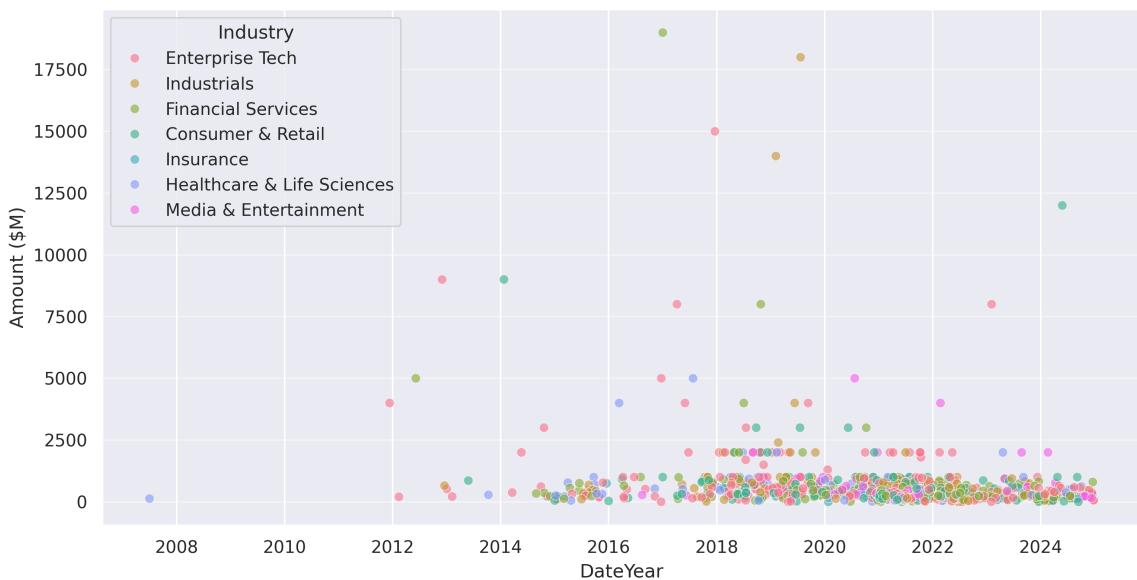
Distribution of Valuations Over Time



6.4 Distribution of Funding Over Time

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.scatterplot(df, x='Unicorn Date', y=df['Funding ($M)'], alpha=0.6, hue='Industry')
plt.suptitle('Distribution of Funding Over Time')
plt.xlabel('Date')
plt.ylabel('Amount ($M)')
# plt.xticks(df['Unicorn Year'].unique(), rotation=45)
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.5)
# plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()
```

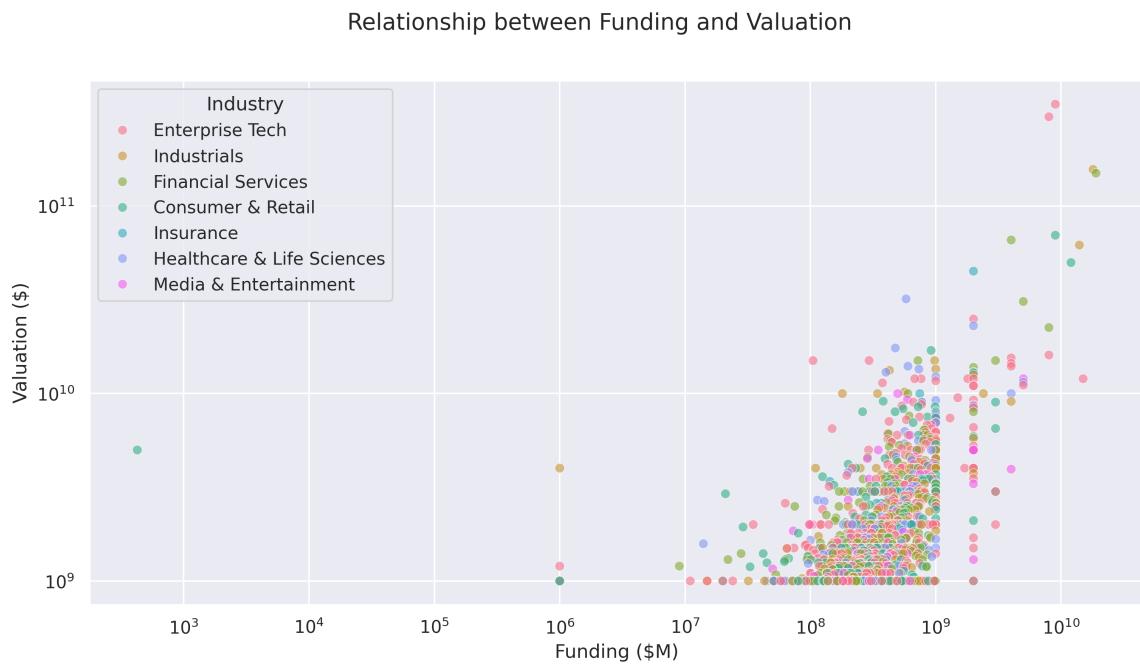
Distribution of Funding Over Time



7 Correlation Analysis

7.1 Relationship between Funding and Valuation

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
sns.scatterplot(df, x=df['Total Equity Funding ($M)'], y=df['Valuation ($B)']*1e9,
                alpha=0.6, hue='Industry')
plt.suptitle('Relationship between Funding and Valuation')
plt.xlabel('Funding ($M)')
plt.ylabel('Valuation ($)')
plt.grid(True)
plt.xscale('log')
plt.yscale('log')
plt.show()
```



8 Investor Analysis

8.1 Top Investors

```
top_investors = df.explode('Investors')\
    .groupby('Investors')['Latest Valuation ($B)']\
    .agg(['count', 'sum'])\
    .sort_values(by=['sum', 'count'], ascending=False)\
    .head(50)

print(top_investors)
```

count	sum
-------	-----

Investors

RRE Ventures	5	397.60
Founders Fund	24	363.01
Relay Ventures	2	358.00
Opus Capital	2	355.70
Breyer Capital	5	320.16
Parkway VC	2	316.00
TIME Ventures	1	315.00
Susa Ventures	2	304.90
Dynamo VC	1	300.00
Andreessen Horowitz	72	184.51
Sequoia Capital China	40	183.61
Sequoia Capital	59	177.57
Alibaba Group	9	163.39
Accel	65	163.21
New Enterprise Associates	26	158.00
The Carlyle Group	5	154.55
CPP Investments	1	150.00
Tiger Global Management	56	144.53
Index Ventures	38	139.65
General Atlantic	30	138.95
Lightspeed Venture Partners	42	121.19
TDM Growth Partners	2	121.00
Insight Partners	49	120.07
Baillie Gifford & Co.	3	117.40
Prysm Capital	2	115.10
General Catalyst	41	113.46
ZhenFund	7	108.20
K2 Ventures	1	91.50
Institutional Venture Partners	13	85.74
Temasek	10	74.58
IDG Capital	27	72.08
Bessemer Venture Partners	32	71.36
Tencent Holdings	29	69.03
Google Ventures	28	68.81
369 Growth Partners	1	66.00
Berkeley Hills Capital	1	66.00
GTM Capital	1	66.00
Holtzbrinck Ventures	2	64.00
Unternehmertum Venture Capital	1	62.00
NVentures	1	61.50
SoftBank Group	29	59.68
Sequoia Capital India	23	57.97
Coatue Management	21	53.79

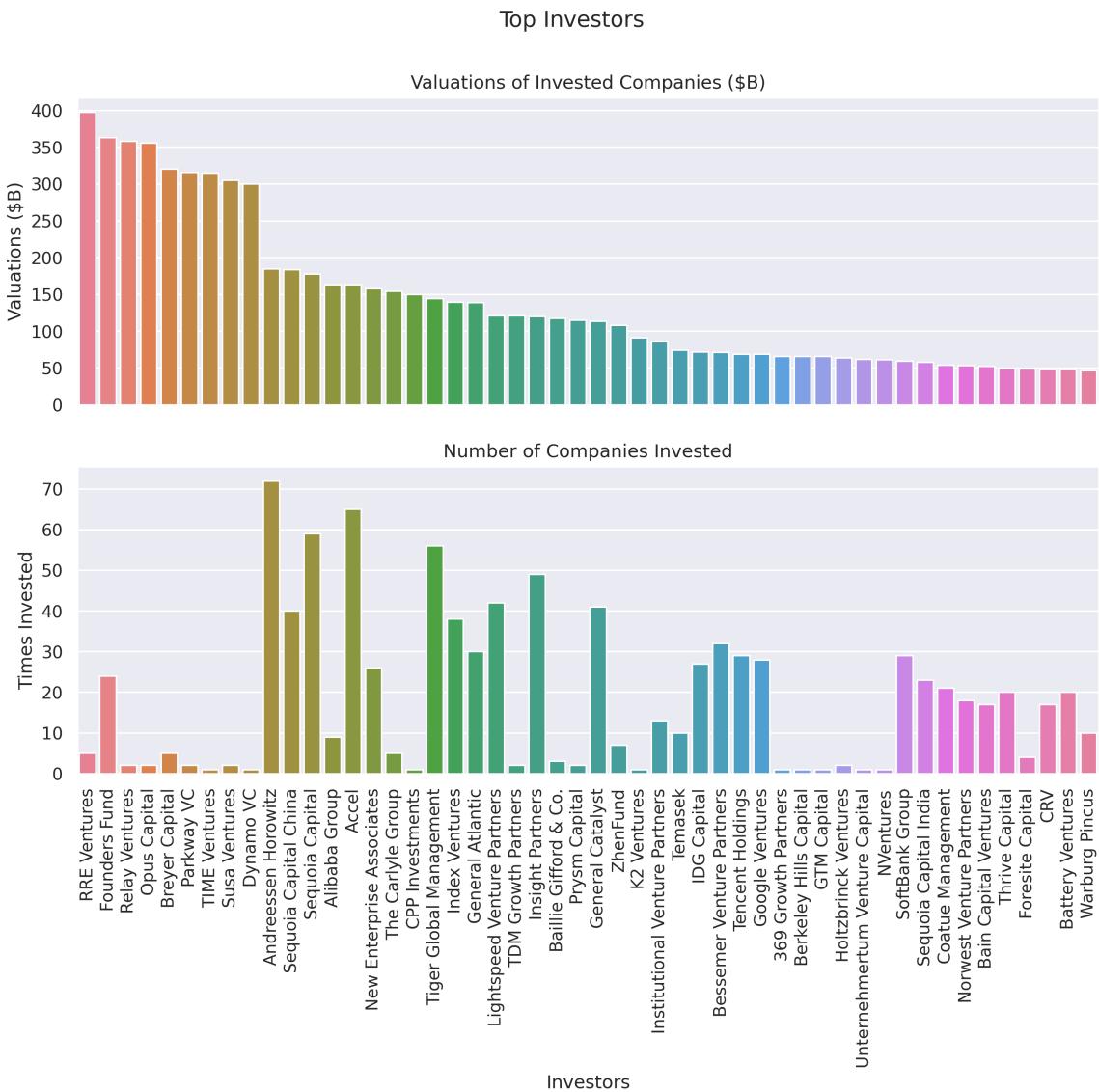
Norwest Venture Partners	18	53.43
Bain Capital Ventures	17	52.66
Thrive Capital	20	49.68
Foresite Capital	4	49.20
CRV	17	48.18
Battery Ventures	20	48.07
Warburg Pincus	10	46.37

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300, sharex=True)

sns.barplot(top_investors, ax=ax[0], y='sum', x=top_investors.index,
            hue=top_investors.index, legend=False)
ax[0].set(ylabel='Valuations ($B)', title='Valuations of Invested Companies ($B)')

sns.barplot(top_investors, ax=ax[1], y='count', x=top_investors.index,
            hue=top_investors.index, legend=False)
ax[1].set(ylabel='Times Invested', title='Number of Companies Invested')

plt.xticks(rotation=90)
plt.suptitle('Top Investors')
plt.show()
```



9 Founder Analysis

9.1 Top Founders

```
top_founders = df.explode('Founder(s)')\
    .groupby('Founder(s)')[['Latest Valuation ($B)']]\
    .agg(['count', 'sum'])\
    .sort_values(by=['sum', 'count'], ascending=False)\\
    .head(50)

print(top_founders)
```

Founder(s)	count	sum
Elon Musk	3	468.70
Ilya Sutskever	2	332.00

Liang Rubo	1	315.00
Zhang Yiming	1	315.00
Greg Brockman	1	300.00
Sam Altman	1	300.00
John Collison	1	91.50
Patrick	1	91.50
Ali Ghodsi	1	62.00
Dario Amodei	1	61.50
Cameron Adams	1	32.00
Clifford Obrecht	1	32.00
Daniel Gross	1	32.00
Daniel Levy	1	32.00
Melanie Perkins	1	32.00
Tim Sweeney	1	31.50
Alexandr Wang	1	29.00
Lucy Guo	1	29.00
Alan Trager	1	27.00
Michael Rubin[34]	1	27.00
Mitch Trager	1	27.00
Chris Britt	1	25.00
Ryan King	1	25.00
Nikolay Storonsky	1	17.75
Vlad Yatsenko	1	17.75
Andrey Khusid	1	17.50
Daniel Livny	1	17.00
Mark Kozubal	1	17.00
Matthew Strongin	1	17.00
Rich Macur	1	17.00
Thomas Jonas	1	17.00
Yuval Avniel	1	17.00
Markus Villig	2	16.80
Yong Li	1	15.50
Jason Citron	1	15.00
Stanislav Vishnevsky	1	15.00
Charlwin Mao Wenchao	1	14.00
Miranda Qu Fang	1	14.00
William Hockey	1	13.40
Zach Perret	1	13.40
Alex Shevchenko	1	13.00
Dmytro Lider	1	13.00
Max Lytvyn,	1	13.00
Todd Park	1	12.60
Max Rhodes	1	12.40
Henrique Dubugras	1	12.30

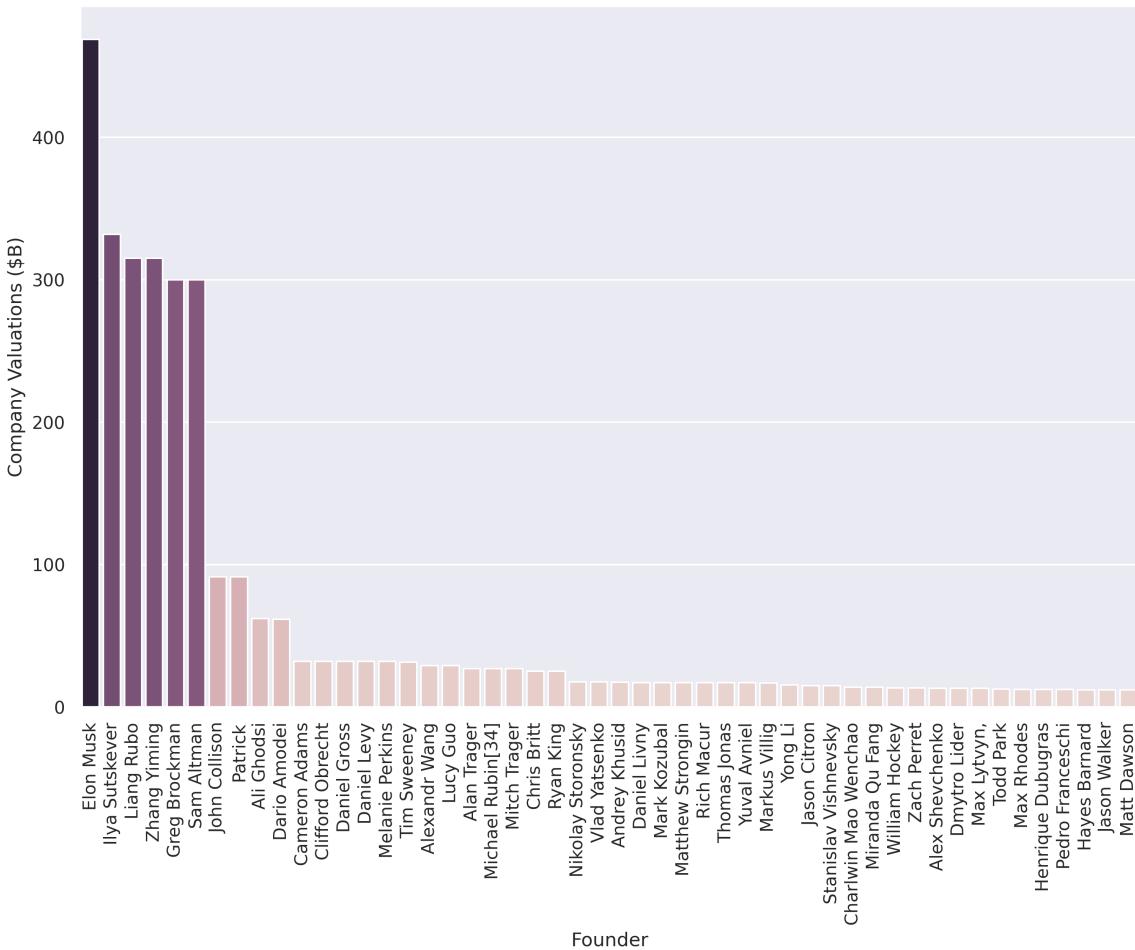
Pedro Franceschi	1	12.30
Hayes Barnard	1	12.00
Jason Walker	1	12.00
Matt Dawson	1	12.00

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 8), dpi=300, sharex=True)

ax = sns.barplot(top_founders, y='sum', x=top_founders.index, hue='sum', legend=False)
ax.set(ylabel='Company Valuations ($B)', xlabel='Founder')

plt.xticks(rotation=90)
plt.suptitle('Top Founders by Company Valuations')
plt.show()
```

Top Founders by Company Valuations



10 Historical Analysis

10.1 Survival and Acquisition

- Find out companies no longer listed as unicorns in 2024

```
df_2022 = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/Unicorn_Companies (March 2022).csv')
df_2022['Valuation ($B)'] = pd.to_numeric(df_2022['Valuation ($B)'].str.replace('$',
→ ''))

df_exit = df_2022[~df_2022['Company'].str.lower().isin(df['Company'].str.lower())]
```

178 companies no longer listed in 2024 unicorn list

```
print(df_exit.head())
```

	Company	Valuation (\$B)	Date Joined	Country	Cit
7	Instacart	39.00	12/30/2014	United States	San Francisco
10	FTX	32.00	7/20/2021	Bahamas	Fintech
15	J&T Express	20.00	4/7/2021	Indonesia	Jakarta
31	Biosplice Therapeutics	12.00	8/6/2018	United States	San Diego
39	Weilong	10.88	5/8/2021	China	Luohe

	Total Raised	Financial Stage	Investors Count	Deal Terms	Portfolio	Exits
7	\$2.686B	NaN	29.0	12.0	NaN	NaN
10	\$1.829B	Acq	40.0	3.0	1.0	NaN
15	\$4.653B	NaN	9.0	3.0	NaN	NaN
31	\$561.5M	NaN	10.0	1.0	NaN	NaN
39	\$559.74M	NaN	7.0	1.0	NaN	NaN

- Financial Stage

```
df_2022['Financial Stage'].value_counts()
```

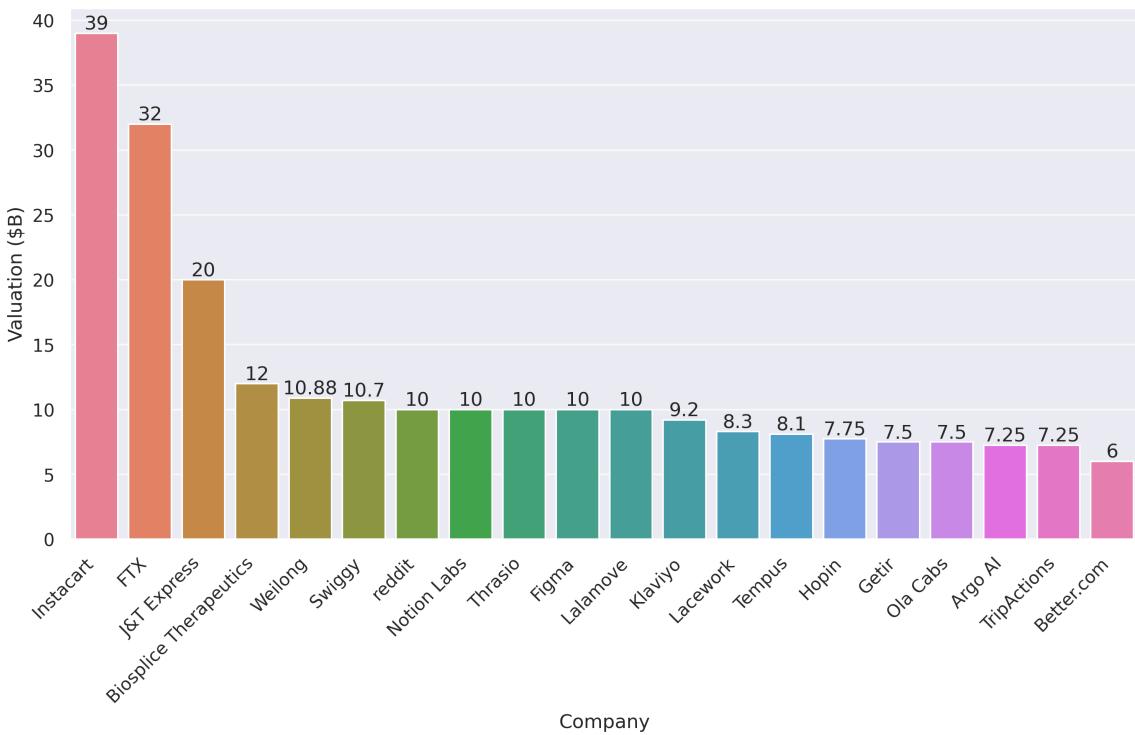
```
Financial Stage
Acquired      22
Divestiture    8
IPO           7
Acq            7
Asset          1
Take           1
Management    1
Reverse        1
Corporate      1
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

10.1.1 Top Exited Unicorns as of March 2022

```
df_exit_top_companies = df_exit.sort_values('Valuation ($B)', ascending=False).head(20)
# print(df_exit_top_companies)
```

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(df_exit_top_companies,
                  x='Company',
                  y='Valuation ($B)',
                  hue='Company')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i)
plt.suptitle('Top Exited Unicorns as of March 2022')
plt.ylabel('Valuation ($B)')
plt.xlabel('Company')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.grid(axis='y', alpha=0.75)
plt.show()
```

Top Exited Unicorns as of March 2022



10.1.2 Exit Reasons of Former Unicorns

```
_df = pd.read_csv('input/raw_data/list-of-unicorn-former-startups_20250619
                   (wikipedia).csv')
_df['Company'] = _df['Company'].str.strip()
def correct_exit_reasons(s):
    s = re.sub(r'\[\.\*\]\]', '', s)
```

```

s= s.strip()
if 'merge' in s.lower():
    return 'Merged'
if 'acquire' in s.lower() or 'acquisition' in s.lower() or 'takeover' in s.lower():
    return 'Acquired'
if 'devaluation' == s.lower():
    return 'Devalued'
if 'direct listing' == s.lower():
    return 'IPO'
return s
_df['Exit reason'] = _df['Exit reason'].dropna().apply(correct_exit_reasons)
# _df = _df[_df['Company'].str.lower().isin(df_exit['Company'].str.lower())]
_df['Exit reason'].value_counts()

```

Exit reason

IPO	128
Acquired	53
Merged	14
Defunct	3
Devalued	3
Bankruptcy	2

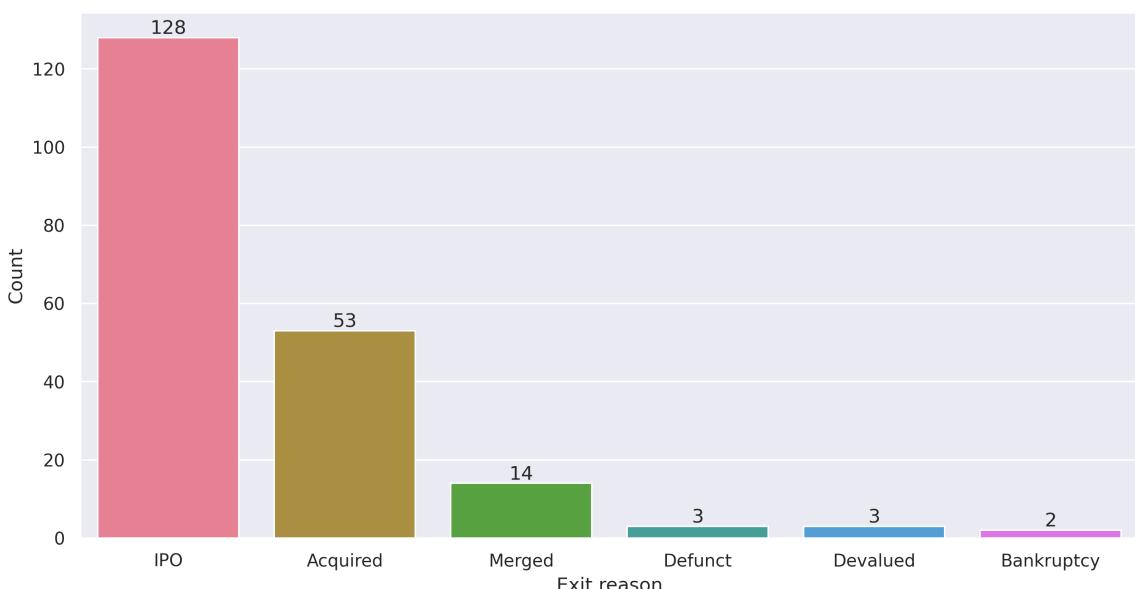
Name: count, dtype: int64

```

exit_reasons = _df['Exit reason'].value_counts().reset_index(name='Count')
# print(exit_reasons.index)
plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.barplot(exit_reasons, x='Exit reason', y='Count', hue='Exit reason')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i)
plt.suptitle('Exit Reasons of Former Unicorns')
plt.show()

```

Exit Reasons of Former Unicorns



11 Funded by Y-Combinator

Y Combinator, founded in 2005 by Paul Graham and others, is a prestigious startup accelerator based in Silicon Valley that provides early-stage companies with seed funding, mentorship, and resources over a three-month program held twice a year. Startups receive initial funding in exchange for equity and culminate in a Demo Day where they pitch to investors. Y Combinator has launched successful companies like Airbnb, Dropbox, and Stripe, significantly impacting the startup ecosystem and inspiring numerous other accelerators globally.

- **Datasets**

- **YC Companies**

```
df_yc_companies = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/2024 YCombinator All Companies
                                → Dataset/companies.csv')

df_yc_industries = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/2024 YCombinator All Companies
                                → Dataset/industries.csv')
df_yc_tags = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/2024 YCombinator All Companies
                                → Dataset/tags.csv')
# print(df_yc_tags.groupby('id')['tag'].agg(list).reset_index())
df_yc_companies = df_yc_companies.merge(df_yc_industries[['id',
                                → 'industry']].groupby('id')['industry'].agg(list).reset_index(), on='id',
                                → how='left')
df_yc_companies =
    → df_yc_companies.merge(df_yc_tags.groupby('id')['tag'].agg(list).reset_index(),
    → on='id', how='left')
df_yc_companies = df_yc_companies[['name', 'slug', 'oneLiner', 'website',
    → 'smallLogoUrl', 'teamSize', 'tag', 'industry', 'batch']].rename(columns={
        'name': 'Company',
        'slug': 'Slug',
        'oneLiner': 'Short Description',
        'website': 'Website',
        'smallLogoUrl': 'Logo',
        'teamSize': 'Team Size',
        'tag': 'Tags',
        'industry': 'Industries',
        'batch': 'Batch'
})
print(df_yc_companies.info())
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 4844 entries, 0 to 4843
Data columns (total 9 columns):
 #   Column           Non-Null Count  Dtype  
 ---  -- 
 0   Company          4844 non-null   object  
 1   Slug              4841 non-null   object
```

```

2   Short Description  4692 non-null    object
3   Website           4817 non-null    object
4   Logo              4197 non-null    object
5   Team Size         4766 non-null    float64
6   Tags              4463 non-null    object
7   Industries        4825 non-null    object
8   Batch             4844 non-null    object
dtypes: float64(1), object(8)
memory usage: 340.7+ KB
None

```

```
df2_yc_companies = pd.read_json('input/datasets/yc_startups.json')
print(df2_yc_companies.info())
```

```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 1000 entries, 0 to 999
Data columns (total 12 columns):
 #   Column      Non-Null Count Dtype  
---  --  
 0   name        1000 non-null    object 
 1   description  1000 non-null    object 
 2   location     1000 non-null    object 
 3   url          1000 non-null    object 
 4   tags          1000 non-null    object 
 5   site_url     999 non-null    object 
 6   tag_line     999 non-null    object 
 7   long_desc    999 non-null    object 
 8   thumbnail    975 non-null    object 
 9   founders     999 non-null    object 
 10  meta          999 non-null    object 
 11  socials      999 non-null    object 
dtypes: object(12)
memory usage: 93.9+ KB
None

```

■ YC Founders

```
df_yc_founders = pd.read_csv('input/datasets/2024 YCombinator All Companies
                             → Dataset/founders.csv')
print(df_yc_founders.info())
```

```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 8465 entries, 0 to 8464
Data columns (total 8 columns):
 #   Column      Non-Null Count Dtype  
---  --  
 0   name        8465 non-null    object 
 1   company     8465 non-null    object 
 2   industry    8465 non-null    object 
 3   stage       8465 non-null    object 
 4   country     8465 non-null    object 
 5   city         8465 non-null    object 
 6   founders    8465 non-null    object 
 7   meta          8465 non-null    object 
dtypes: object(8)
memory usage: 1.0+ MB
None

```

```

    ---  -----
  0   first_name      8461 non-null  object
  1   last_name       8456 non-null  object
  2   hnid            8465 non-null  object
  3   avatar_thumb    8465 non-null  object
  4   current_company 7624 non-null  object
  5   current_title   2201 non-null  object
  6   company_slug    8465 non-null  object
  7   top_company     8465 non-null  bool
dtypes: bool(1), object(7)
memory usage: 471.3+ KB
None

```

11.1 How many YC companies are in unicorn status currently?

```

df_yc_unicorns = df.assign(tmp_col=df.Company.str.lower()).merge(
    df_yc_companies[['Company', 'Slug', 'Short Description', 'Website', 'Logo', 'Team
    → Size', 'Tags', 'Industries', 'Batch']].assign(tmp_col=lambda x:
    → x.Company.str.lower()),
    on='tmp_col', how='inner').drop(['tmp_col', 'Company_y'],
    → axis=1).rename(columns={'Company_x': 'Company'})
df_yc_unicorns['Batch Season'] = df_yc_unicorns['Batch'].apply(lambda x: 'Summer' if
    → x[0]=='S' else 'Winter')
df_yc_unicorns['Batch Year'] = pd.to_numeric(df_yc_unicorns['Batch'].apply(lambda x:
    → f'20{x[1:]}'))
print(df_yc_unicorns.info())

```

```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 98 entries, 0 to 97
Data columns (total 25 columns):
 #   Column           Non-Null Count  Dtype  
---  -- 
 0   Company          98 non-null    object 
 1   Valuation ($B)   98 non-null    float64
 2   Total Equity Funding ($) 98 non-null  int64  
 3   Unicorn Date    98 non-null    datetime64[ns]
 4   Date Founded    98 non-null    int64  
 5   Years to Unicorn 98 non-null  object 
 6   Industry         98 non-null    object 
 7   Country          98 non-null    object 
 8   City              98 non-null    object 
 9   Select Investors 98 non-null    object 
 10  Unicorn Year    98 non-null    int32  
 11  Funding ($B)    98 non-null    float64

```

```

12 Funding ($M)           98 non-null      float64
13 Latest Valuation ($B)   98 non-null      float64
14 Years to Unicorn (Months) 98 non-null      int64
15 Slug                   98 non-null      object
16 Short Description       97 non-null      object
17 Website                 98 non-null      object
18 Logo                     95 non-null      object
19 Team Size                96 non-null      float64
20 Tags                     92 non-null      object
21 Industries               98 non-null      object
22 Batch                    98 non-null      object
23 Batch Season              98 non-null      object
24 Batch Year                98 non-null      int64
dtypes: datetime64[ns](1), float64(5), int32(1), int64(4), object(14)
memory usage: 18.9+ KB
None

```

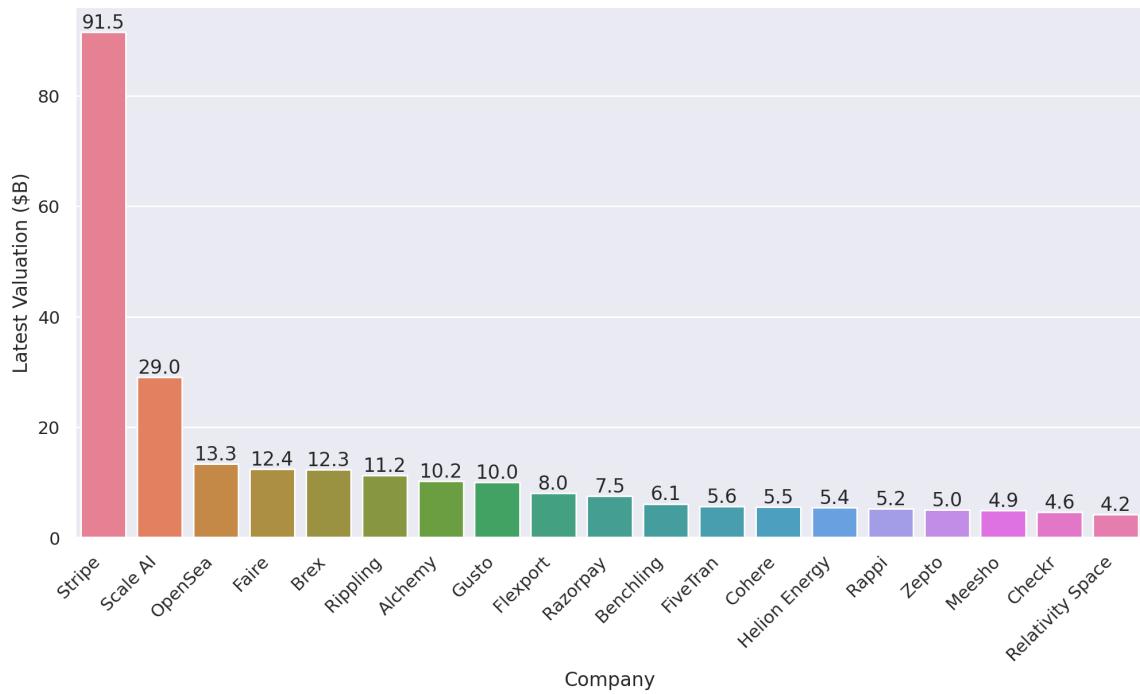
11.2 Top Companies by Valuation

```

df_top_yc_unicorns = df_yc_unicorns.sort_values(by='Latest Valuation ($B)',
→ ascending=False).head(20)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12,6), dpi=200)
ax = sns.barplot(data=df_top_yc_unicorns, x='Company', y='Latest Valuation ($B)',
→ hue='Company')
for i in ax.containers:
    ax.bar_label(i, fmt='%.1f')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.suptitle('Top YC unicorns by Valuation')
plt.show()

```

Top YC unicorns by Valuation



11.3 YC Batch Distribution

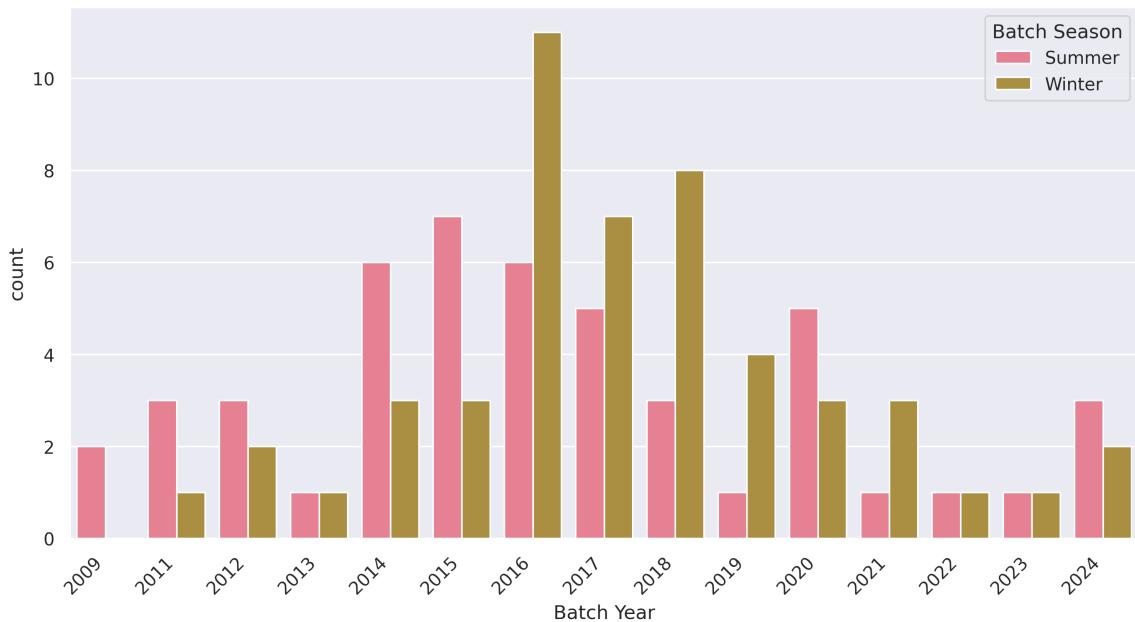
```
_df = df_yc_unicorns.groupby(['Batch Year', 'Batch
                             Season']).size().reset_index(name='count').sort_values(by='Batch Year')
print(_df)
```

	Batch Year	Batch Season	count
0	2009	Summer	2
1	2011	Summer	3
2	2011	Winter	1
3	2012	Summer	3
4	2012	Winter	2
5	2013	Summer	1
6	2013	Winter	1
7	2014	Summer	6
8	2014	Winter	3
9	2015	Summer	7
10	2015	Winter	3
11	2016	Summer	6
12	2016	Winter	11
14	2017	Winter	7
13	2017	Summer	5
15	2018	Summer	3

16	2018	Winter	8
17	2019	Summer	1
18	2019	Winter	4
19	2020	Summer	5
20	2020	Winter	3
21	2021	Summer	1
22	2021	Winter	3
23	2022	Summer	1
24	2022	Winter	1
25	2023	Summer	1
26	2023	Winter	1
27	2024	Summer	3
28	2024	Winter	2

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12,6),dpi=300)
sns.barplot(_df, x='Batch Year', y='count', hue='Batch Season')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.suptitle('Batch Distribution of YC Unicorns')
plt.show()
```

Batch Distribution of YC Unicorns



11.4 Top Countries

```
top_countries = df_yc_unicorns['Country'].value_counts().nlargest(20).index
top_countries
```

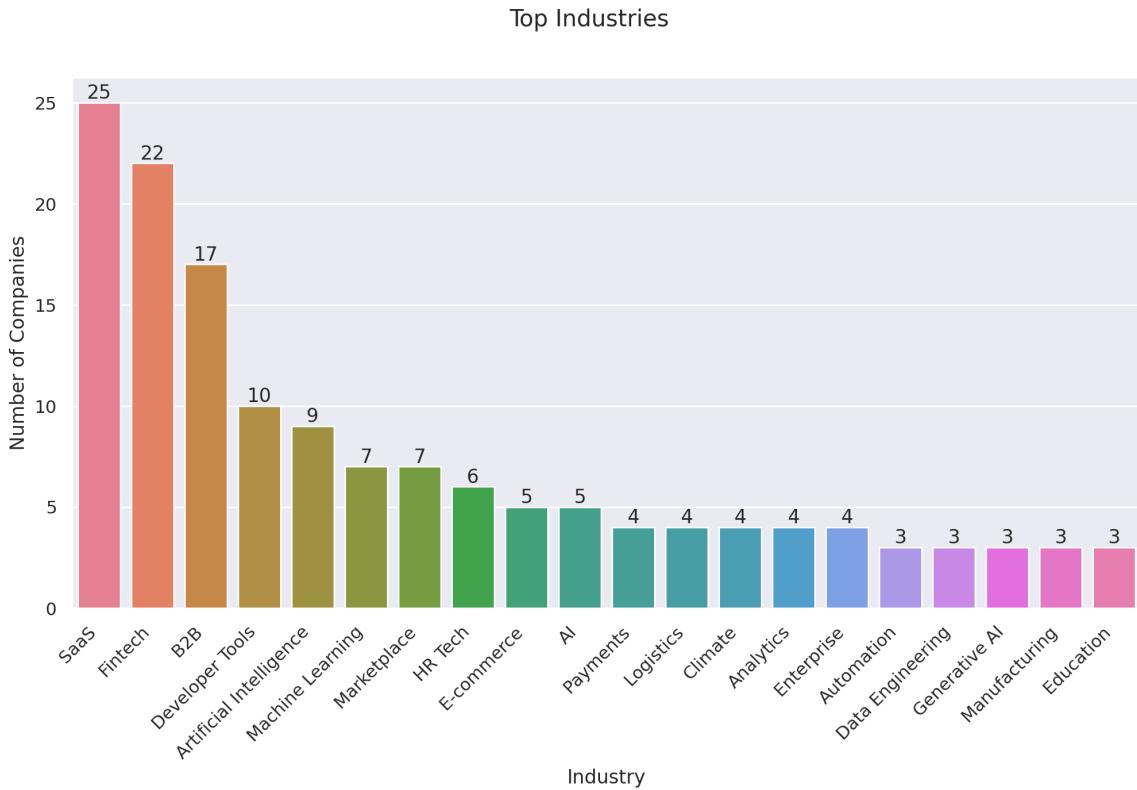
Index(['United States', 'India', 'United Kingdom', 'Canada', 'Mexico', 'Indonesia', 'Co...']

11.5 Top Industries

```
top_industries =  
    df_yc_unicorns['Tags'].explode().value_counts().head(20).reset_index(name='Count')  
print(top_industries)
```

	Tags	Count
0	SaaS	25
1	Fintech	22
2	B2B	17
3	Developer Tools	10
4	Artificial Intelligence	9
5	Machine Learning	7
6	Marketplace	7
7	HR Tech	6
8	E-commerce	5
9	AI	5
10	Payments	4
11	Logistics	4
12	Climate	4
13	Analytics	4
14	Enterprise	4
15	Automation	3
16	Data Engineering	3
17	Generative AI	3
18	Manufacturing	3
19	Education	3

```
plt.subplots(figsize=(12,6), dpi=200)  
ax = sns.barplot(data=top_industries, x='Tags', y='Count', hue='Tags')  
ax.set(ylabel='Number of Companies',  
       xlabel='Industry')  
for i in ax.containers:  
    ax.bar_label(i)  
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')  
plt.suptitle('Top Industries')  
plt.show()
```



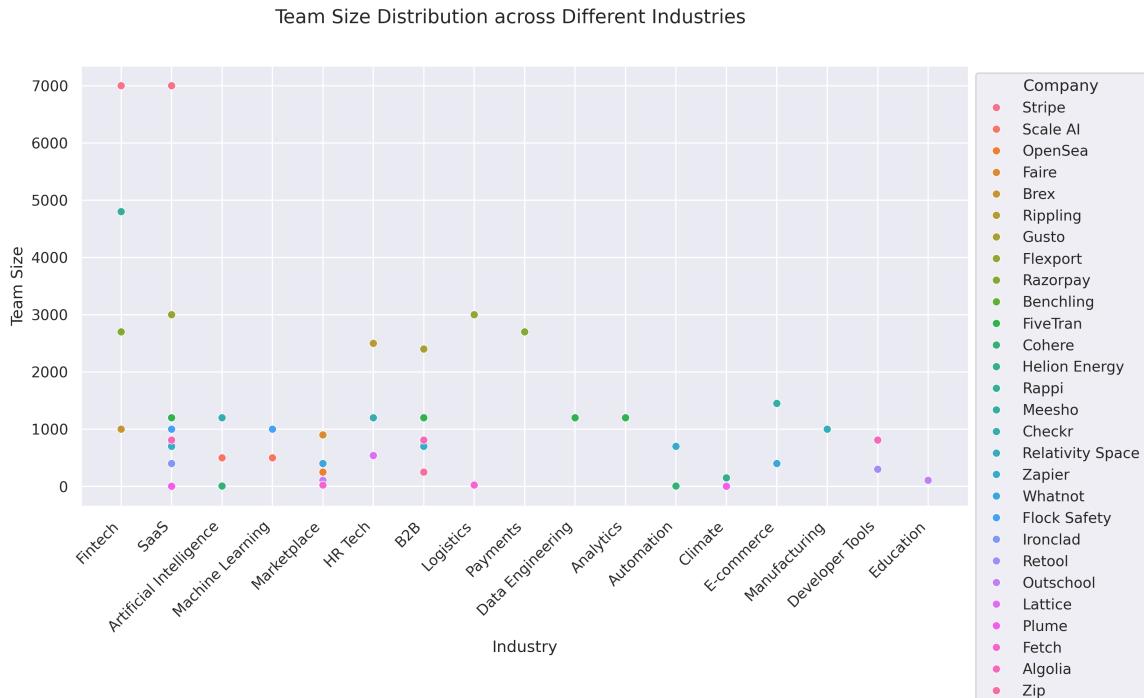
11.5.1 Team Size Distribution across Different Industries

```

_df = df_yc_unicorns.explode('Tags')
_df = _df[_df['Tags'].isin(top_industries['Tags'])]
_df = _df.dropna().sort_values(by='Latest Valuation ($B)', ascending=False).head(50)

plt.subplots(figsize=(12,6), dpi=300)
ax = sns.scatterplot(_df, x='Tags', y='Team Size', hue='Company')
sns.move_legend(ax, "upper left", bbox_to_anchor=(1, 1))
ax.set(ylabel='Team Size',
       xlabel='Industry')
plt.xticks(rotation=45, ha='right')
plt.suptitle('Team Size Distribution across Different Industries')
plt.show()

```



12 Predictive Analysis

- **Valuation Predictions:** Use regression models to predict future valuations based on funding and industry factors.
- **Time to Unicorn:** Model the factors influencing the time taken to reach unicorn status.

13 Case Study

13.1 Scale AI

Scale AI, Inc. is an American data annotation company based in San Francisco, California. It provides data labeling and model evaluation services to develop applications for artificial intelligence.

13.2 FTX

FTX Trading Ltd., trading as FTX, is a bankrupt company that formerly operated a cryptocurrency exchange and crypto hedge fund.

13.3 Lalamove

Lalamove is a delivery and logistics company which operates primarily in Asia and parts of Latin America. Lalamove services are currently available in Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore,

Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Cebu, Bangkok, Pattaya, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Jakarta, Dhaka, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Mexico City.

14 References

- Unicorn (finance) [wikipedia]
- The YC Startup Directory